

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON

VENEREAL COMPLAINTS.



PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

O N

VENEREAL COMPLAINTS,

A N D

THE DISEASES ARISING THEREFROM;

SHEWING

Their NATURE, SYMPTOMS, CAUSE, and CURE, without impairing the Constitution with Mercurials, in Conformity to the AUTHOR'S new SYSTEM, founded on the BASIS of long PRACTICE and EXPERIENCE.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

DISSERTATIONS ON THE MALADIES

Incident to the URINARY PASSAGE, the GENERATIVE ORGANS. and other Defects in some particular FUNCTIONS of the ANIMAL ŒCONOMY.

BY MR. NEALE,

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THE SIXTH EDITION,

ALMOST NEW MATTER.

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1793.

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T O T H E

CHEVALIER GERRARD,

Late PRESIDENT of the ROYAL ACADEMY of
SURGERY of PARIS, and SURGEON GENERAL
to the FRENCH FORCES during the late WAR
in NORTH AMERICA.

S I R,

THE memorable Campaigns
in North America, which first favoured me
with the Honour of your Acquaintance,
afforded me also an Opportunity to admire
your brilliant Talents in the healing Art.
Besides, of beholding with an Eye of Gra-
titude your Liberality and Attention to those
brave Men of the British Army, whom the
Chance of War had put under your Pro-
tection; for many of their Lives were not
only saved by your professional Skill, but

through you, Sir, all the Necessaries of Life, on the Bed of Sickness, were most bountifully supplied them, and your skilful Hands rendered Balm to their Wounds. Since those Days, I am proud to boast of the Advantages I have received from a long Continuance of your Friendship and Correspondence. Accept this small Mark of the Regard and Esteem, with which I shall ever remain,

S I R,

Your most obedient,

And very humble Servant,

H. St. JOHN NEALE.

No. 5, *John-Street, Adelphi,*
London, Oct. 17, 1793.

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E R R A T A.

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PREVENTING and curing Diseases, is an Art so considerable, that it has been the Endeavour of the greatest Physicians in all Ages :—*Hippocrates* values himself particularly on the former Piece of Knowledge.

“ The foreseeing a Disease,” says he, “ is my Invention, for Diseases do not come upon Men of a sudden, but being collected by Degrees, shew themselves afterwards in the Bulk.” *Hippocrates*, Lib. I. de Victus Rat. Pag. 34. Lib. III. de Diæta, Pag. 369. *Poesf.*

“ What is the Virtue or Faculty of any Medicine, besides its Power of eradicating the immediate Cause of a Disease ; which Effect is discovered from knowing first the Nature of the Disease. Hence Practice, indefatigable Industry, and laborious Application of Men !” *Ibid.*

INTRODUCTION.

THE venereal disease, which, according to historians of the most undoubted credit, is a native of some of the American islands, especially *Hispaniola*, was brought into Spain near the end of the fifteenth century, and thence carried into Naples, during the war between Ferdinand of Arragon and the French, by some Spanish troops, who had contracted it in the aforesaid island; for these and the French soldiers having had at different times communication with the same women, according as the same towns alternately fell into the hands of the two

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contending

contending parties, this filthy disease first spread itself over the two armies, thence made its way into Italy, and has since infected most part of the habitable world. But how it came, so as to infect the Americans, that is, from whence this disease sprung *ab origine*, or had its first beginning, is the grand question in dispute. To throw as much light on this matter as possible, I must have recourse to the authority of some of our ancient writers: the first is, that of Doctor *Martin Lister*, a physician of great note in his time, who tells us, he believed it proceeded at first, either from the bite of some venomous animal, or from food certainly poisonous; it being very well known, that the original inhabitants of those countries freely eat certain serpents (of which innumerable new species or kinds are among the Indians unknown to us) and so either from the poisonous nature of their impure diet, or the bite of those poisonous serpents (as from the biting of a mad dog an hydrophobia is occasioned) either, continues he, from that external or internal cause, was the
venereal

venereal disease certainly bred, which, once begotten, infected afterwards with a contagion *.

* I remember well, when I was in America during the late war, serving with the army in my professional capacity, to have often heard, from some of the most respectable and sensible of the natives, that the origin of the venereal disease was imputed to the habit of eating game killed with the poisonous arrows of the savages. But now it is universally known, that the flesh of such animals may be eaten for a continuance without any ill effect.

I cannot help, in this place, making a digression in giving a description of this wonderful poison, which I had curiosity particularly to examine.

It is produced from the plant called *Lianes*, of which there are vast numbers in all damp and marshy places. The method of preparing it is by cutting them in pieces, then boiling them in water, till the liquor had acquired the consistence of a syrup; after this, the Indians dipped their arrows in it, which were immediately impregnated with the poisonous quality. Any animal, whose skin has been raised with one of these poisoned arrows, dies a *minute after without* any sign of convulsion or pain. At first thought, I was of opinion that this was occasioned by the coagulation of the blood, but the experiments which I made proves the contrary; for having procured a quantity of this poison, and mixed it with blood newly drawn and warm, it prevented it completely from coagulating, and even preserved it some time from putrefaction.

I think it is more than probable that the effect of this poison is upon the nervous system.

The same ancient physician tells us, that Confalveus Ovideus, a Spanish nobleman, and a great natural philosopher, makes the same observation, who, among all the Spanish authors, was the most faithful historian of the nature of things, and was for many years chief governor of Hispaniola, and the rest of those islands. He was a most ingenious writer, but most of his works are unfortunately lost. Among other animals which he mentions to be in the West-Indies, he describes particularly the *Inguanas* to be a four-footed serpent, upon which the Indians fed greedily; the Spaniards, after their example, put them into their food also, having a pleasant taste, much more savoury, he says, than the flesh of rabbits. The eating of them, he says also, hurt nobody, unless such who had been infected with the venereal lues, and those, although they had long before been cured thereof, it presently offended and renewed the disease, as if the same had lain only dormant; and this, continues the noble Spaniard,

Spaniard, our soldiers experienced by innumerable examples.

Doctor Lister says, it is not so absurd, that this lues had its original from the like, if not from the self-same causes; when, by the eating of them, the malady forthwith is revived, though as it were dead long before. Happy for the Western world, no such noxious animals are eaten now-a-days by the natives, nor have I ever heard of such, though I made most diligent enquiries amongst the oldest of the inhabitants. But for the satisfaction of my readers, I will go on farther with the very curious narrative given us by the Spanish governor. He says, he was still more confirmed in his opinion, respecting the poisonous nature of this animal, because, says he, the genital parts of either sex, who had been before infected with the venereal disease, (though to appearance perfectly cured) in a little time after having eaten of this animal, became beset with certain tufts thick together, resembling cocks-combs,

exactly like those in the serpent *Inguanas*, whose body is generally all over with tufts of that sort; certainly a proper representation from what animal that distemper derived its being. It is common, says Dr. Lister, for poisonous animals to imprint proper and peculiar characters of their contagion; for example, a barking in hydrophobia, caused by the bite of a mad-dog, also a dog-like voracity of swallowing, with an aptitude of licking rather than drinking, by a continual putting out of the tongue.

The bite of the tarantula causes a constant desire of leaping, as the tarantula skips from one place to another. I am not ignorant, continues Doctor Lister, that this may be accounted fabulous by some, even learned men, but certainly, says he, not so by me.

Indeed the history of the nature of many things on the earth, and in the sea, are yet but little understood; it is therefore not so much to be wondered, that innumerable
phænomena

phænomena are hid from us, and justly to be suspected. They who have eaten of the sea-lepus (that is, a kind of naked sea-hare, of a purple colour, found even in our European seas) make a purple coloured urine; and in their sleep, ever and anon, seem to hear the waves of the beaten shores, and their bodies become livid. This fish is reckoned to be poison to man, and man to him, as Scribonius Diascordes and others assure us.

Hence this celebrated author's opinion of animal poisons, who, indeed, with much ingenuity, endeavours to make appear, that the poison of those animals imprints something similar upon the person who has either been bit by them, or has eaten of them, with a view to shew the possibility of the venereal virus being infused by the poison of those animals; and that it might have been propagated at first from beast to man, and so transferred from man to woman, or woman to man, to what we daily find it to be now. Thus he states the original of the venereal

lues: but the most singular opinion of all is, that of the immortal Hervey, physician to Charles the First, who declared, that he believed it was first caused by Greek wine dashed with lepers blood, which the French drank, being purposely left then at Suma by the Spaniards.

I very well remember, that a certain English merchant, who had resided many years in *Muscovy*, assured me, that the venereal disease was hardly known in that country before the reign of the late Czar, *Peter the Great*, because till that time, the traffic carried on by the Muscovites did not require much communication, or dealing with foreigners; but after that Emperor had taken the resolution of visiting other parts of Europe, and had sent many of his subjects abroad to learn trades and manufactures, those carried back with them the dire effects of their amours into their native country, which raged there with the greatest severity, as inflammations and ulcers are the more difficult to be cured in cold climates. Hence
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in process of time, the mutual intercourse of different nations becoming more frequent by wars, trade, and other causes, this contagious malady at length was spread far and wide.

It is judiciously observed by one of the most elegant historians of the present age*, that the Americans, by communicating the venereal disease to their conquerors, have not only amply revenged their own wrongs, but by adding this calamity to those which formerly embittered human life, they have, perhaps, more than counter-balanced all the benefits which Europe has derived from the discovery of the new world. It is more than probable, this will not appear the least exaggerated, when we consider the many ills entailed upon the Europeans by the disease itself, but by far a greater number arising from an improper mode of treatment.

When we consider the many volumes which have been and are daily published on venereal complaints, and the confidence the

* Dr. Robinson's History of America.

most ignorant and inexperienced practitioner undertakes to cure them, we shall be naturally led to think that, not only nothing new can be presented to the public on the subject, but that every one must be well acquainted with the true specific for them. But when we give ourselves time to reflect, we must be sensible that farther proofs are necessary to ascertain our skill in the proper treatment of this disease. Every medical man, how great repute soever he may be in, or celebrated for his skill in any one branch of the healing art, may not be a competent judge of some experimented and demonstrated truths. One solid practical observation being of more real value, than all the unsupported theories that the wit of man ever invented; and it is a precept of Hippocrates which ought to be held in reverence; *ὥκ ὁκνέειν παρά τῶν ἰδιωτῶν ἰστορέειν ἢ τι δοκέει ξυμφέρον εἰς καιρὸν θεραπεύειν.*

Having perused all the authors of any note who have written on the lues venerea, from the days in which this malady had
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that name attached to it, down to the present time, I have observed little or no notice taken of those diseases which originate or take their source from the lues, but are not unfrequently treated as a distinct species, or under another class of diseases often to the destruction of the unfortunate sufferer. In treating of which, and other venereal maladies which attack mankind, I beg leave to offer these few pages to the public, founded on long practice and experience, which makes the sixth edition of my work. I cannot help acknowledging that we have many well wrote books on venereal complaints, but the multiplicity of books on this subject, as well as on a variety of others, are not clear demonstrations of the limits of human knowledge.

The discussion of facts, the true criterion of an author, and every other result of erudition, require only knowledge and judgment, but the most brilliant natural talents, joined to great application, will sometimes fall short in enabling an individual to publish

lish a work thoroughly perfect on any one disease, without he has had unlimited experience; keeping his practical eye constantly on their variety of species, and their appearances in different constitutions. It is not all the universities in the world, not all the seminaries upon earth devoted to the study of physic, that can make an able practitioner. The young physician, after having finished his studies at these places, is a child when he begins to practise. Few practitioners, though I say it, have had so many opportunities as myself, of learning thoroughly the nature of the malady which makes the chief subject of this work, as well as many others incident to the human body. Above twelve years at first, under able professors, in different parts of Europe—fifteen years of my life was afterwards spent in the army, in my professional capacity, the first school in the world for physical and chirurgical knowledge. It's here I availed myself of every opportunity that offered, and with the assistance of my colleagues, I spent those days in search of proper methods to subdue the
various

various maladies that embarrass and often destroy the animal œconomy. I do not pretend here to offer to the public a complete treatise on these diseases. I have ever been averse to prolixity; and have often been tired out reading works of that description. I shall only present them with such practical remarks and observations which have fallen at different times under my notice, being the fruit of long practice and experience.

Practical Observations, &c.

C H A P. I.

S E C T. I.

Of Gonorrhœa.

TH E disease, which makes the subject of the following tract, is one in which mankind are on many accounts much interested, very few of either sex, rank, or condition of life, being exempt from it; the rich, the poor, the lazy, and the laborious, are equally liable to it; and from its being improperly treated, it produces certain inconveniences to all who are afflicted. Obstructions in the urinary passage are not unfrequently the consequence, as sometimes to render the life of the patient miserable, and put it to the hazard, obliging him

him ever after to have recourse to the bougie, to prevent the evils formed in the *urinary canal*, from closing up the passage, by which the emission of both the urine and semen would be prevented; which might at first have been guarded against, if the disease of the urinary passage, with which the sufferer was afflicted previous to his obstruction, had been properly treated; or, in other words, if a proper application had been made to the urinary canal, when it was in a state of inflammation, proceeding from virulent matter, all the evil consequences might have been avoided.

Let it be considered, that most complaints of the urinary passage proceed from ill-managed gonorrhæas when the unfortunate patient gets into the hands of the ignorant, who make him swallow a quantity of mercury, &c. which might, with as much propriety, be given to a patient, who, with a good habit of body, had a scratch of a pin, or some other sharp instrument, upon his hand,
or

or finger, so as to cause inflammation, pain, &c. a poultice applied will be found to be the best remedy, and will soon perform a cure without the help of any other medicine. If such an application could be made to the inside of the urinary passage, I am well assured, it would cure a gonorrhœa with as much speed and success as the other.

A gonorrhœa, or clap, is a local disease, confined to the urinary passage only; it is that species of venereal, where the blood and juices are not affected; the glands of the urinary passage become inflamed, by the virus lodging on them, and exciting them, by irritation, to a greater secretion of mucus, which, from the inflammation they are affected with, becomes purulent; hence I am inclined to think, that the virulent running of that complaint, is nothing more than an increased secretion of the mucus, which is naturally secreted by the glands of the urethra.

On dissecting those that died actually while under this complaint, the disease appeared

to me, to consist in an abrasion of the natural mucus of the *urethra*, the whole length of which seemed more or less inflamed, red, *and highly excoriated*, the lacunæ of the mucus glands enlarged, from their being inflamed, and slightly ulcerated *. After this discovery, I began to turn my thoughts towards making experiments on the different preparations thrown up into the part affected, with a view to act immediately on the diseased urinary passage, having no longer any doubt of the disease being local. I was well convinced, that if a liquid could be discovered, possessed of a quality to remove this inflammation, the cure would be soon performed; I had every opportunity for this purpose, having seldom less than between fifty and sixty men in this con-

* This I particularly observed on the dissection of two men of the 16th regiment of light dragoons, in the month of January 1777, at Brunswick, in the Jerseys, North America; one was a corporal, the other private; the latter was shot on a patrolling party by the enemy, and had been under my care about a week; the former was killed by a fall from his horse, on the fourth day after he applied to me.

dition,

dition, and I accordingly put my intention into execution.—The plantain properly prepared, I found to answer this end.

The ancients, and indeed many moderns, have given it as their opinion that the prostate glands were the parts first infected; but in this they laboured under an egregious mistake; for they lie too remote, and cannot therefore be thought the parts first infected. It will be allowed by all those who have had much practice in this kind of business, that the disorder takes its rise from a contagious liquid communicated from the infected person, and it seems to me a matter of impossibility how such a liquor should reach so instantly to a part so remote from the opening of the urethra; for this alone being that humour which the urethra can on this occasion receive, its quantity must needs be very little, and its velocity in passing forwards inconsiderable, there being neither muscle nor valve, nor any other instrument alledged that can possibly forward it to such a distance. The frequent ex-

periments I have made have evinced and confirmed me in this doctrine. It is to be observed, that while a person labours under a gonorrhœa, no liquid proceeds from the prostate glands, this is seen in the common practice of injections; for as they put a stop to a gonorrhœa, this fluid must necessarily reach and be applied to the part affected, which would not be the case if the glands at the root of the penis were supposed the original seat of this disease.

Another very easy experiment may be tried, which is decisive (but the dissections I have made confirm me in this opinion) whereby it will appear to a demonstration, that in the time of a gonorrhœa, none of the malignant matter is sent from the prostate or parts beyond them. The experiment is this, let the urethra be compressed about the middle of the penis, and the matter contained in it be squeezed out from the length forward; so as to press the penis from the pubis to the nut: let the operation be repeated, and we shall find it impracticable to

squeeze out more matter by the second pressure than the former ; consequently it is evident, that the pufs discharged in the first trial, was not driven forward by any matter proceeding from the prostate to the place we began to squeeze at. This experiment is therefore quite inconsistent with the supposition that matter is derived from the prostate ; for, in consequence of such a supposition, the whole ducts of the urethra from thence to the glands or nut, should be filled with the discharge, the contrary of which appears from the experiment. We may conclude, therefore, that the original seat of this disorder is not by any means in the prostate or their neighbouring parts, but solely in the lacunæ of the mucus glands of the urinary canal.

But I beg to be understood by my readers, that it is the farthest from my intention to have the most distant idea go forth to the world, that these parts, viz. the prostate glands and their neighbourhood may not in the progress of a clap become infected by

it, and be productive of serious consequences, but this is owing to injudicious treatment. However it still holds true that neither of these parts is the primary seat of the disorder, nor the source from whence flows originally the virulent matter: as therefore those parts, viz. the prostate and its neighbourhood, are perfectly free from the contagion in the first instance of this disease, and a well adapted injection destroys its virulence, great caution is necessary at the beginning that proper steps be taken in its management to prevent the various evils which not unfrequently attack both the urethra and neck of the bladder, which I shall show hereafter in my observations on diseases of those parts. The urethra is naturally supplied by a viscid substance, fit to defend it against the acrimony of the urine, and secreted by the mucous glands for that purpose, &c. The vagina of women is likewise furnished with many of those glands, and have been longer known to us by the name of lacunæ. Now we learn from the nature of the animal œconomy,

nomy, that in case any gland or excretory duct be stimulated, the quantity of liquid which it discharges will be considerably augmented by such stimulation; and that in proportion to the greatness of the stimulating force which the gland or duct undergoes: for instance, experience shews that a little of the powder of cantharides, or Spanish flies, applied to any part, soon raises a blister, and by its stimulation causes the glands there to discharge a quantity of matter greatly exceeding what would naturally flow from the part by insensible perspiration. We find also that a very minute portion of this stimulating animal matter as can be conveyed by the blood to the bladder and parts of generation, is sufficient to produce an inflammation in those parts, to occasion an erection of the penis, and even to cause a smart pain and heat of urine.

Hence if some of this powder was laid on the urethra or vagina, it would in like manner immediately inflame those parts, produce ulcers, and cause a considerable flux

of liquid not unlike that attending a gonorrhœa, but with this difference, that the discharges would not equal that which flows in the above venereal disease, either in its malignancy or length of duration: since then the venereal contagion is found to be of an acrimonious corroding quality, it may well raise ulcers in the urethra and vagina, stimulate all the parts of the glands affected, and cause as great an efflux of liquor as is produced by the cantharides, but the venereal contagion being of a more virulent nature than cantharides, if fixed in any part affected either in the rise or progress of the distemper, produces a greater discharge of the liquid separated by the glands than the powder of the flies can possibly do. I have carefully examined the sentiments of the first medical professors of antiquity upon this subject, and have found them all labouring in darkness in regard to the mode of accounting for the nature of the malady in question, or the proper means for curing it. Even as late as the great Boerhaave and Sydenham, the former an eminent profes-

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for and practitioner, yet he seems to have been unacquainted with the mode of curing a simple gonorrhœa. The latter * who was equally eminent and not more remarkable for his skill in the practice of healing, than for his distinguished candour and goodness of heart, appears to me to have been in the same predicament. The best writer on this subject is * Colonel de Villars, who was an old surgeon in the Imperial army. This able practitioner has thrown more light on this complaint than any of his cotemporaries. He was the first who availed himself of the proper opportunities that sometimes occurs to discover the true cause of it, of which innumerable instances must have presented themselves to him in the army. He tells us particularly of dissecting the entire genital parts of a young

* Vide fifth edition of this work, page 8.

* Colonel de Villars, had the rank of a colonel in the army conferred upon him by the monarch, for his distinguished services. He was as good a soldier as a surgeon; but he still followed his profession, and was a great honour to the science.

officer

officer who was shot through the brain in a duel, and who was at the same time labouring under a most virulent gonorrhœa.

He confesses before this dissection to have been quite ignorant in this branch of his profession, but after a minute inspection of the urethra and bladder, together with the surrounding parts, he began to improve daily in the success of curing his patients. The colonel was so celebrated in his profession of the healing art, as to be sent for by the different courts of Europe—in most branches of surgery as well as physic. That the common effect of an acrimonious liquid operating on any part of the human body, is a constant and forcible contraction of the vessels, which being more or less restored by the strength of their springs, and the velocity of the liquids that pass through them, on that account produce a greater flow of humours. Hence the orifices of the excretory ducts, and the ducts themselves of the lacunæ, being stimulated by the acrimonious matter communicated in a gonorrhœa,

rhœa, an unusual discharge of the liquids proceeds from those ducts, proportional, *cæteris paribus*, to the acting power, and is the natural consequence of such a stimulation.

It is my wish to give as minute and particular a detail of the subject as the narrow limits I have confined myself to will admit, to be able to convey some idea to my readers, of all that passes in the time of a gonorrhœa, whether it be skilfully managed, or in an improper and uncertain manner. I must, therefore add, that as this stimulating power in the first instance, is the communicated contagion which is applied to a part considerably more tender than the tenderest glands, it must be obvious that the quantity of liquid which causes a gonorrhœa is much less than that which produces an ulcer, where a quantity of contagious matter in the former case may possibly not amount to the thousandth part of a grain weight. Farther, as this stimulation is continual, so must its effects be also, for which
reason

reason the virulent matter in this complaint must flow incessantly night and day, and that in any state or position of the member affected, as in reality we find it does: And what is still more considerable, the flowing humour not only begins its efflux earlier than could be if an ulcer was first to be formed, but is likewise of that hue, and thicker consistence, than any ulcer in such a case could possibly furnish. Hence these symptoms make it manifest, that this viscid humour thus early appearing, and constituting this complaint, is the liquid of the lacunæ which may be observed in the urethra, corrupted by the contagion, as simply produced and made to run by its acrimony, and consequently the urethra alone must be allowed to be the seat of a gonorrhœa. But here it is highly necessary to observe, that notwithstanding the ease of effecting a cure in the beginning of this malady, and its being merely local, yet if the discharge be unskilfully suppressed without a proper cure, then the virulent matter passes into the blood, and produces a pox,
and

and not unfrequently numberless evils of the urinary passage. The common practice of curing this disease formerly, and I have found since my practice in London that it still exists, was to give mercurials internally, and a mercurial injection to complete the cure. My new method is to give, instead of any mercury internally, a little extract of rhubarb, or even what the patient prefers to keep his body open, and in the mean time to apply copiously the plantain injection, this I never found to fail since I first made the discovery, now upwards of fourteen years.

C H A P. II.

S E C T I O N I.

*The general Design in curing a Gonorrhœa,
with a particular Account of my direct
Method.*

AS I have endeavoured, in the former part of this Section, to deduce the seat and nature of a gonorrhœa from its symptoms. As Colonel de Villars very justly observes, that the grand point is to discover the cause of a disease, by which we are enabled to attack and combat the enemy with a greater prospect of success. This observation he applied to his own condition, for he tells us, that in the early part of his life he had suffered much from a venereal gonorrhœa, which he had laboured under for upwards of twelve months; and although under the management of Professor Boer-

Boerhaave, whose pupil he then was, yet this simple malady baffled the skill of this great man, and the Colonel had near fallen a victim to the disease. He confesses to have been ignorant of the true mode of curing this complaint, till he went into the army, where he had his own health re-established by one of his colleagues. It is more than probable, that the Colonel's own sufferings made him afterwards so remarkably indefatigable, in making such ingenious discoveries and improvements, with regard to treating this disease, which I have perused with great pleasure in his writings.

Without engaging in any of the theories or hypotheses formerly received, and also believed by many practitioners at this time, my present endeavour shall be, to draw the method of cure from the nature of the disease, which I have thus discovered.

This method must necessarily prove the most genuine and satisfactory; because it proceeds from the very essence of the malady

lady itself, whereas all former methods of curing have not any foundation, either in reason or experience. By the foregoing Chapter I have informed my readers, that the real and true cause of a gonorrhœa, is a corruption of natural liquor separated from the blood, and contained in the lacunæ, the sharpness of which corruption stimulates the mouths of those ducts, and excites the running. But I must here beg leave to deviate from the opinion of a modern writer * on this subject, who goes so far as to declare to the world, that a gonorrhœa will get well of itself, that is to say, will run off in time of its own accord, provided the quantity of the efflux is greater than the power of corrupting.—This, I presume, is his hypothesis, which I must confess would be dangerous to trust to, and it is a pity such doctrine should ever have been sent into the world. As the stimulating power occasions the discharge into the urethra, the lues cannot ensue in the time of a running; but if no remedy is applied to the urethra, the contagion gets down to the bottom of the

* John Hunter, Esq.

canal, and will often make terrible havock ; and I have known many instances of this in the army, where the experiment has been made, but it had nearly proved fatal to the sufferers. The lues will most undoubtedly ensue, if this discharge is checked by improper medicines ; and therefore the cure is to be obtained by destroying the corruption in this mucus liquor, and by encouraging it to run off in its usual way. Such is the nature of the application recommended ; instead of giving the least check to the discharge, it renders it many degrees more plentiful for a few days, till the virus becomes destroyed, and then it gradually diminishes, till all is right again. The medicines to execute this intention of curing, made use of by the old physicians, have been attended with great uncertainty and danger ; because the ancient practitioners, as well as many of the present day, were not sufficiently apprized of the true cause of this malady. It is to this unskilfulness all our disappointments are owing, and that the symptoms are often exasperated,

the gonorrhœa in consequence is not unfrequently followed with very serious symptoms, rendering life miserable. And, therefore, in pursuit of the foregoing reasonable indications, I wish to inculcate, as much as possible, the most direct and most proper methods of cure, by stating briefly the conditions and circumstances of the disease.

Medicines composed of mercury, to destroy the sharpness of the virus, as given formerly by old practitioners to tear out the intestines of the poor patients, were in the highest degree absurd; but it could not otherwise be, these physicians being altogether strangers to the nature of the malady, and still more so to the place from whence it flowed, their hypothesis were but a guess, and rather led them into a belief of the impossibility of such a method as here recommended, than to inform them in any true practice. But as we are now convinced, that the running liquor comes from the lacunæ, which are at hand, who can deny, that a liquid injected into the urethra may
affect

affect the flowing virus in the lacunæ, and may there destroy the poison, and the running with it?—The mischief done by improper injections is a very convincing proof, that the seat of the running may be affected by injections:—and here it is to be particularly observed, that too much caution cannot be used against improper injections; which I have known to occasion the lues, and bring on pernicious effects of many kinds.—But this is no reason why we should not apply useful injections, reason and experience assuring us, that the true method to cure a gonorrhœa is by injection.

Practitioners will be careful how they expose their veracity and honour, by denying what is thus reasonable and possible, especially when the materials of an injection are adapted to the disease, and our success has shewn the truth of a safe and proper one. Therefore, as I have given many more instances than is absolutely necessary, to establish the fact and certainty of a liquid thrown up into the urethra, that will cure the most viru-

lent gonorrhœa in a short time, it is not necessary to insist upon a matter which is so manifest and well known, without some real objections can be offered to oppose it.

As I have before observed, that the matter of a gonorrhœa is the corrupted liquor of the lacunæ; which matter never mixing with the blood, while properly managed in the hands of a skilful practitioner, but discharging itself from the lacunæ; hence, while there is no administration of improper medicines, it will necessarily follow, that the corrupted liquor may be discharged from its corruption in these small glands, which is the direct method to cure a gonorrhœa.

There is as much difference in the various kind of injections as in other sorts of medicines; and here I wish to inculcate, as much as in my power, the serious consequences that must attend improper injections, such as are of the styptic kind; hence, vitriolic, aluminous powders, mercury, and corrosive sublimate; or others,
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the urethra may suffer great constriction by these, being too sharp and rough for the tender passage, the worst symptoms will sometimes follow, and not unfrequently an absorption of the poison into the blood, which may bring on a confirmed lues. I was lately consulted by a gentleman, who had for some months laboured under a fore throat, for which the family surgeon had attended him, and made use of the common remedies to remove it, but they proved in vain. I perceived the right tonsil enlarged and callous, and behind the uvula seated a callous edged ulcer;—as it had the criterion of venereal, I put some questions to him, and he gave me to understand, that it was his custom to cure himself of common gonorrhœa; and having had one but six months back, he had made use of his usual remedy, which was white vitriol, about a drachm in a quart of water; it soon stopped his running, and he supposed himself as well cured as it before had done: but unfortunately this gentleman had great reason to regret his having ever applied his injection.

tion. He was completely poxed in consequence, and suffered much both in mind and body. In judging of the sufficiency of the direct method of curing, the principal consideration is about its efficacy, safety, and the time wherein we are cured, which is far better answered by this method than any other ; for the gonorrhœa terminates much the soonest this way, and women are as soon cured as men, which never is in the other ways of curing. Indeed, women can very seldom be properly cured by any other method, as the lasting discharge, often without virulence sufficiently proves.

The efficacy of a proper injection is conspicuous in any time of a gonorrhœa ; and the virus of the running never increases after the first using it ; so much is the sharpness blunted in a little time : and therefore the practice of the injection being in the days of the increase, or in the beginning, the cure will be the quicker, if the liquor of the lacunæ is not thicker than natural, there being commonly a smaller quantity of corruption

ruption to be subdued, than after the quantity is greater. The quantity of running will always increase, by the practice of diuretic and cathartic medicines, for they do not act by correcting the poison; hence the gonorrhœa will increase by the sharpness of its matter, and cathartic medicines add their stimulus to that of the running, whereby the quantity of the discharge becomes vastly increased. The different operations by the medicines of both methods are very considerable; the one correcting and subduing the poison, the other promoting the running from it. The method here recommended is not only the most speedy and effectual, but likewise the most safe, as is evident, by moderating the symptoms in time of a cure, and the consequences after a cure is performed; for in this direct method the sharpness is destroyed, and consequently all the symptoms which flow from it; but in the indirect methods the sharpness is augmented, and the symptoms with it.

If we further consider the safety of any person cured of a gonorrhœa, this is far better provided for by the method here recommended, than by any other, the design in this being to destroy the sharpness, and never to endeavour the least stoppage any way, otherwise than subduing the cause of it; so that an irregularity in life, and the virulence of the poison, may possibly make a longer cure, but never an unsafe one. On the other hand, I have often observed in those who have employed me, and who had long laboured under these complaints, that errors in living, and an untimely exhibition of astringent and balsamic medicines, have been too commonly the causes of all their sufferings:—and I have often found their blood affected by an unsuccessful practice. In that case, let us follow the rule of the learned Fracastorius, which well agrees with experience.

“ Imprimus mirum illud erat, quod labe recepta,
 “ Sæpe tamen quater ipsa suum compleverat orbem
 “ Luna prius, quam signa fati manifesta darentur.”

Thus

Thus we may safely conclude, and long experience is the basis I go upon, that a gonorrhœa will never be attended with ill consequences, when managed by the direct method recommended, which is the most certain way of curing it, and destroying its acrimony; this being considered, we are led a step farther, which is, to believe that a medicine, which destroys the greatest quantity of poison, will more easily destroy the least; or, which is the same, that a proper application to the urethra is able to destroy the cause of a gonorrhœa when it is first communicated, and does really cure it before its appearance, and is, in a proper sense, a preventive medicine. Through the course of this argument, it well deserves our observation, that as the whites and gonorrhœa are found to be much alike in the foregoing theory, so I have found that they may be cured by the same injection; which observation renders my theory perfect, and shews the genuineness

ness of the method of curing a gonorrhœa ; and as both these complaints are produced by a stimulus of the same liquor, so both admit of the same cure.

C H A P. II.

S E C T I O N I.

*Of the fwelled Testicle, commonly called
Hernia Humoralis.*

THIS complaint arises from two causes:
First, From the retention or suppression of the virulent matter of a gonorrhœa, that ought to flow from the urethra till it is cured. Secondly, From the virulent venereal miasmata, which inspissate the semen, and infect it in the fine vessels of the testicles, and thereby retain it; so that when the discharge is by any means restrained, the virulent semen that flows from the testicles into the seminary vesicles, and from them into the urethra, being likewise restrained, stuffs up and swells the vessels into which it is driven. The spermatic vessels become distended, and press upon the arteries and
veins

veins that run nearest them, which being compressed, the blood pressing on in a continual stream, is forced, with a degree of violence, against the lateral lymphatic vessels, which easily yielding, it makes itself a new passage. In this manner is produced an inflammatory tumor of the testicles. It sometimes happens, in the second stage of a clap, either from some irregularities committed by the patient, improper internal medicines, or from the use of baneful injections, that the running is prematurely diminished, or totally suppressed ; and a heaviness, heat, and swelling of one or both testicles succeed, attended with a considerable degree of pain, stretching along the spermatic chord.

It is the epididymis that is generally first attacked, but soon after the entire body of the testicle becomes engaged. Inflammations of these glands sometimes terminate differently ; but resolution is what we wish for, and is what most generally happens, if well managed. Notwithstanding, the epididymis
will

will remain often hard and knotty for a long time.

A fwelled testicle, the consequence of a gonorrhœa, is ever a disagreeable accident: as a local complaint, it is often not only attended with pain, but its resolution extremely tedious; and the discharge being suppressed, may insensibly pass into and infect the general mass of fluids. I have seen ulcerated tonsils, and other symptoms of the lues, but too frequently arise.

Our grand object in the treatment of a fwelled testicle should be its speedy resolution; and as the premature suppression of the running is the more general cause of this complaint, no means ought to be neglected to promote a return of it: but this cannot be effected, while an high degree of inflammation prevails, our first attention should be directed to oppose its farther progress, and take off its most painful effects.

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In young plethoric subjects, where the pain and inflammation run high, it will be necessary the patient should be let blood; the quantity and repetition will depend on the acuteness of the symptoms. I seldom or ever found it necessary to repeat it. The bowels should be kept free with cooling openers, and a light cooling emulsion ordered to be plentifully drank; and he should be confined to bed with a slender regimen. In the external applications, we should carefully avoid greasy poultices, such as the bread and milk, with mercurial ointment. This is the old and common practice; it keeps up an erethism in the parts, hinders the freedom of transpiration, by stopping the pores, and not unfrequently determines to suppuration, or at least retards resolution. The two most eligible I have experienced, are, the common fomentation, and a poultice of barley meal. A decoction of the hemlock leaves, and a poultice of the same between whites, is also an excellent application. By steadily pursuing this method, with proper internals, I have seen the most

alarming swellings of the testicles happily disappear, leaving no vestige of any disease behind them. Should so unfortunate an event as a suppuration take place, we should be careful not to be too precipitate in giving exit to the matter, previous to any disagreeable hardness, being in some measure softened, and that the fluctuation appears so evident, as not to be mistaken; this is an accident I have known, more than once, to happen to surgeons of great eminence. In making an incision in so delicate a part, great circumspection is necessary, and there will seldom be occasion, nor is it safe to extend it much, what will permit the free exit of the matter, and the easy application of dressings will be fully sufficient,

Large incisions in all detached glands, whose vessels are lax, and liable to dilate, are attended sometimes with the worst of consequences.

It frequently happens, that when suppuration of these parts does take place, that
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the matter is confined to the integuments only, and the testicle itself is not engaged, this we should be extremely attentive to distinguish. If in the process of the suppuration, the tunica vaginalis should slough off, and the testicle become bare, the suppuration may affect the albuginea, and destroy the texture of that wonderful gland.

Long experience enables me to say, that in all scirrhus testicles, the consequence of venereal affections, the utmost circumspection is necessary, previous to proceeding to any operation; for by a prudent administration of proper medicines, testicles that had been condemned to extirpation, I have seen happily saved, and a cure effected.

SECTION II.

Of the indurated or threatening Schirrous of the Testicle, &c.

INFLAMMATIONS and tumors of these parts, arising from venereal causes, are attended in many instances with serious consequences to the sufferer. I have seen not only suppuration, or abscess, but dropsy, mortification, fistulous ulcers, callosities, indurations, termed schirrous, which not unfrequently is disposed to become cancerous. As these diseases are differently circumstanced, different modes of treatment are found proper, as well as necessary, for their relief and cure.

The practitioner ought to be as expeditious as possible in applying his remedies, when
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inflam-

inflammation of these glands take place. Every man of science knows the means generally used in these cases. During my Practice in the army, and from which I always found success when regularly attended to, there never was a schirrous testicle in consequence.—As well as fomentations medicines, of the cooling kind should be administered. The insensible perspiration ought to be increased largely over the whole body, and anodynes should be occasionally administered for the relief of pain, and for obtaining placidness and balmy rest. But unfortunately for the patient, the practice is too often, to charge him, as soon as possible, with quicksilver, by rubbing his legs, or some part of his body, with the mercurial ointment. This custom is well known to almost every country barber; but it is used in so indiscriminate a manner by practitioners of some note, that the worst of evils are produced by it. A considerable enlargement, tension, and induration of the testis itself often follows such treatment. I have often found the epididymis, and the tunica

tunica albuginea, upon examination during this state, in many instances, appear as one uniform, smooth, shining, and distended body ; sometimes the infectious and venereal discharge, which preceded the tumour, will be found, either in a great measure or totally, to disappear. In the course of my practice I have known it happen, that inflammation and tumours of these parts have arose at the termination of a long and dangerous fever ; it is then to be looked upon as critical ; and such methods must be pursued, as from experience we find are most likely to promote the formation of matter. All cataplasms, encouragers of suppuration, should be applied as warm as can be possibly bore.

The Peruvian cortex may be employed here in a proper form and quantity—with uncommon benefit.

But here I must observe, that the use of cataplasms or emollients are often abused in swellings and hardness of the testicles, arising from venereal causes, though they

are generally had recourse to ; which method of practice used so indiscriminately, is, in my opinion, attended with evil consequences.

I have observed, that the degree of relaxation they bring on upon the vessels of the testes and epididymis, naturally prone to relaxation, increases tumefaction, and may bring on a suppuration, by no means proper in these cases, it may also bring on the hydrocele, or watery tumour—hence much will depend on the skill of the practitioner.

When our internal remedies, and our external applications seem to fail us, in the treatment of a venereal enlargement of these glands, and not being able to rid them of the poison by which they became affected, the disease often becomes fixed, a stoney hardness takes place, the epididymis soon gets buried in one large flinty mass, insensible to the touch. To define this tumour, named schirrous, the idea might perhaps be best conveyed by saying, that it is occasioned
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by an acrimonious matter, that coagulates, inspissates, or dries up the juices of the glands in which it may be produced. These complaints I have seen in different parts of man's body, as well as the testicles, and especially in the breasts and womb of women. They are, no doubt, produced from a corruption of the balsamic and nutritious juices, which are coagulated and hardened by means of acrid, saline, and corrosive poisons, whether scorbutic, venereal, or scrophulous; this last is always the effect of one of the former, if not both *.

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* Where the unfortunate state of the patient requires castration, from my repeated experience I must recommend to the operating surgeon, not to make a ligature on the spermatic chord, for many lives have been lost on that account; besides, it is unnecessary. I have proved this in several instances, both in the diseased testicle and from gun-shot wounds. In the action of Brandywine, between the British and Americans last war, three soldiers of the regiment to which I was surgeon were shot in the testicles; one poor fellow lost both, the other two lost their left one. I here made no ligature on the spermatic vessels, having been well convinced,

vinced, that the consequences of this operation are often fatal on that account. They all did well.

I must own I cannot help being much surpris'd to find, that almost all the books written on chirurgical operations should recommend the tying up of the spermatic chord, as essentially necessary for performing the operation of castration; at the same time that it is evident, that the minuteness of the vessels which furnish the blood, and the happy point of support, furnished by the os pubis, are sufficient reasons to secure us against a hæmorrhage. In fine, by not making use of a ligature, we not only secure the patient from the danger which might follow, but we likewise free him from the pain inseparable from it, and avoid cutting one of the pillars of the ring, which sometimes cannot be avoided. It is surpris'ing, that Mr. Sharp (who has erected a tribunal in chirurgical matters that has rendered him immortal) should not have remarked, that a ligature on the spermatic chord, after castration, is frequently unnecessary; he only gives his opinion (see his *Critical Remarks on the present State of Surgery*, page 144, &c.) that it is by no means dangerous. But granting him that, is not its being useless sufficient to induce practitioners to lay it quite aside?

SECTION III.

Of the watery Tumour of the Testicle, commonly called Hydrocele.

THIS disease is not peculiar to the testicles alone, nor does it always proceed from venereal causes ; for it is well known to those conversant in anatomy, that the cavities of the thorax, of the pericardium of the abdomen, and of the cranium, are lined with membranes of a composition resembling the tunica vaginalis testis ; and these membranes are furnished with serous arteries, for the same purposes as the tunica of the testicle.

They are also suddenly attacked with considerable extravasations, proving more or less inconvenient and dangerous to the afflicted ; in a degree proportional to the violence of the attack, as well as to the im-

portance of the part itself. These diseases, when properly known and comprehended by their peculiar signs, which the man of experience will soon distinguish, do often admit of considerable relief, and frequently of an effectual cure from manual operations, which I have been an eye-witness to, in the course of an unlimited and extensive practice. To enable the unexperienced, with a degree of certainty, to know and distinguish the hydrocele of the tunica vaginalis, from every other species of tumour incident to these parts, certain rules have been laid down by a number of Authors who have written on this subject; but this may be compared to a beautiful landscape to the blind. It is by practice only, a true knowledge of these complaints can be learned. So that those gentlemen might have as well saved themselves the trouble and time lost in their descriptions. This disease proceeds most frequently from relaxation, or a rupture of some few of the adducing lymphatic vessels of the vaginal coat of the testicle. The tumour at first is very small, and not

at all inconvenient, or troublesome, during such a mild state of the complaint. I have seen, in some constitutions, its increase amazingly slow, many years elapsing from its origin, before it arrived at that size to become offensive or troublesome; whilst in other constitutions, or where many lymphatics of the adducent or abducent class are impaired, the circulation becomes interrupted, the swelling increases very fast, and becomes, in a few months, so large, as to oblige the afflicted to seek for relief from surgery.

The swelling is generally free from pain, and there is little inconvenience attending it, but such as proceeds from its size and weight. This freedom from pain may readily be accounted for, not merely from a want of sensibility of the coats of the testicle and scrotum, but from the gradual distension which they have undergone, as well as from the gradual pressure which the tunica albuginea has sustained, and their being quite free from inflammation at the same time;

time ; but when it happens, that this disease is suddenly brought on, and that an inflammation and irritation have preceded, and attend the complaint, the circumstances are greatly altered, and the alteration of circumstances soon brings on alteration of symptoms ; hence speedy assistance from internal and external remedies must immediately be had recourse to, as was the case of a young gentleman wounded with the point of a broken foil in fencing, stated in Observation XXIII. In the hydrocele, the testis is supposed to be concealed from the touch : this may sometimes possibly be the case, but it will not often prove so to the man of experience, who is perfectly acquainted with the natural and exact situation of the testis. In a large hydrocele of the vaginal coat, the penis is contracted ; instances of which I have often seen, and to so great a degree, as effectually to bury the penis, leaving scarcely the least vestige of its existence. In this case, much inconvenience in making water will be found to arise, attended with an excoriation of the scrotum ; and the sufferer

ferer in this stage of the tumour is rendered incapable of procreation. For the temporary relief of some, and the effectual cure of others, who are attacked with so troublesome and irksome a complaint as the hydrocele, is by many sufferers experienced to be, there are two modes of operating: the first is termed the palliative method; the second the radical one of treating this disease. The palliative method is very expeditious in its manner, perfectly simple; in its nature, almost void of pain; and for the most part, requires little or no confinement: but unfortunately for the patient, the disease too often returns again, and occasionally demands a repetition of the like operation. A superficial dressing is all that is required to the punctured part of the scrotum, and a bag-truss to suspend the parts. But the consequences that follow the radical method, essentially differ from the palliative. This operation cannot be successfully done, without it be followed by some pain, and inflammation to a certain degree, which degree is always succeeded by

by a greater or less degree of a symptomatic fever, proportional to the violence of pain the patient endures, and the suddenness and extensiveness of the inflammation that attacks the tunics of the testicle, the testicle itself, and the epididymis.

A perfect adhesion of the vaginal coat, and the albuginea of the testicle, should take place to fulfil our intention in this operation, by which means the natural cavity of the tunica vaginalis becomes obliterated. After the operation, that this change may be brought gradually and commodiously about, a quiet horizontal position of the body and limbs become highly necessary—an abstemious slender diet, cooling medicines, opium occasionally, gentle evacuations, topical emollient fomentations, superficial mild digestive ointments, and soft relaxing cataplasms, repeated and continued, for a greater or less length of time, as occasion may be found to require.

SECTION IV.

Of the Phymosis and Paraphymosis.

THE uninterrupted success of the plantain essence in the gonorrhœa, has induced me to make use of the same remedy in disorders of the penis, known by phymosis and paraphymosis ; and it has always answered my expectations. The best proof I can give of what I advance is, that when it is applied in due time, there will never be occasion for to perform the operation. It is well known, there are different species of phymosis : the most simple consist in an inflammation of the prepuce, which generally proceeds from the acrimony of the virulent matter, which oozes from the canal of the urethra in a gonorrhœa, and which prevents the glans from being discovered. But there are phymosis complicated with chancres more or less malignant, and others which

which threaten the penis with an approaching gangrene. As to the paraphymosis, no one can be ignorant of its meaning, or its bad consequences, although the name is derived from the Greek, which signifies a round ligature, and so called by Paulus Æginita. The violent strangulation which it produces, may put a stop to the blood in its return to the penis, give rise to a gangrene, if not a suppression of urine, without the application of proper remedies. It is the best practice in cases of phymosis, whether with chancres or not, to make use of an injection between the glans and prepuce, and there introduce strips of lint moistened with the plantain essence, at the same time taking care to bathe the penis frequently in it.

By this method of treatment, though simple, the most astonishing favourable effects are produced; which can only be accounted for, from the united, calming, antiphlogistic, resolving, and antiseptic qualities of this preparation. In the course of
my

my practice, I have had many gentlemen apply to me in cases of phymosis, where not the least venereal matter existed, but proceeding from other causes.

I had two patients lately, one upwards of fifty, the other turned of forty, neither of whom ever had been afflicted with any species of venereal during their lives. This they declared to me on their honour, and I had every reason to believe them, for they were both gentlemen of strict integrity and independent fortunes. They were both cured by correcting their habit, and producing the insensible perspiration of the glans, which was completely blocked up.

No arguments can be so convincing as facts, especially as the mode of treating these complaints tends to abolish all chirurgical operations, both in the phymosis and paraphymosis. It is proper to observe in this place, that those diseases are not always a symptom of an existing venereal; for it often happens, that they arise from other causes;

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causes; it may often be observed in the
small-pox, where I have seen it so great, as
to prevent the patient from making water
for two days, till relief was procured.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION I.

AN officer of the fifth regiment had a very extraordinary phymosis: the glans had retired back almost to the root of the penis; he suffered continued and excruciating pains; it was with great difficulty his urine was discharged; a purulent, foetid matter, produced by chancres, which occasioned the phymosis, oozed from between the prepuce and the glans, and the part was threatened with an approaching gangrene.

I never saw a worse case, and I doubted, for some time, whether I should not recommend the operation without loss of time: but fortunately for him, by a constant and regular application of the plantain fomentation, and the Peruvian bark internally, assisted by a few antimonial medicines, he was relieved from

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his dangerous symptoms in the space of twenty days. But he afterwards drank the Montpellier apozem for a long time, by way of security.

OBSERVATION II.

A YOUNG man, about twenty-four years of age, enlisted into the fifth regiment, with a view purposely to get cured of a phymosis, which he had laboured under three years, arising from a malignant gonorrhœa; he was taken into the hospital, and shortly cured by the use of the usual remedies.

OBSERVATION III.

A SERJEANT of the fifth regiment came to the hospital with a considerable phymosis, accompanied with many chancres about the glans, from whence oozed a bloody and corrosive matter. The patient suffered considerably. In four-and-twenty hours he found himself much relieved by
the

the plaitain fomentation, rested as usual, and was perfectly well in less than thirty days.

OBSERVATION IV.

I SAW a day-labourer who had a singular phymosis, for which he had applied to an apothecary and surgeon. Before I was called to see him, a mortification had taken place, which was fortunately stopped by the bark and fomentation—the prepuce and part of the glands sloughed away, and he afterwards got well, with some loss of substance.

OBSERVATION V.

A GENTLEMAN of this city came to consult me last year about a phymosis, with which he had been afflicted, at intervals, for upwards of two years. He was the more uneasy about it, as he would not submit to any operation, and was desirous

to be married. I found him to be of a bad habit of body, with a sharp acrimonious taint in the fluids—when this was corrected, and his blood sweetened, he soon got perfectly well, to his no small happiness of mind.

OBSERVATION VI.

A GENTLEMAN had a phymosis, with a remarkable hardness on the prepuce, for which he applied to me, having laboured under it near twelve months. He was cured by sweetening his blood and the usual applications.

OBSERVATION VII.

A GENTLEMAN was afflicted with a phymosis, accompanied with a spermatocele, for a long time, of which he was cured in the space of two months after he applied to me.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION VIII.

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. GLAUC-
CESTER, Surgeon of his Majesty's Sixty-
fifth Regiment of Foot.*

“ I HAVE just cured, by the use alone of the plantain, with a little camphorated spirit, a malignant phymosis, when a mortification of the glans was apprehended. The parts were almost constantly kept bathed in the above liquor. An old officer had the penis very much swelled, and the glans likewise, by a phymosis and a number of chancres: the prepuce was black, and threatened with a gangrene, notwithstanding which, he was cured in thirty days by the use of the plantain essence, now and then fomenting, and the cortex internally, without any operation.”

OBSERVATION IX.

AN artist made application to me, whose prepuce, glans, and part of the penis, were threatened with a gangrene, arising from a phymosis. I cured him without any operation, or even the least scarification, in these alarming circumstances,

OBSERVATION X.

A YOUNG man was brought into the hospital at Chatham garrison, whose prepuce, glans, and part of the penis, were threatened with a mortification, arising from a paraphymosis; he was, at the same time, afflicted with a malignant fever. His delirium prevented his saying any thing to us of the paraphymosis; but as soon as he recovered his senses, he perceived he had an involuntary discharge of urine. I own I was afraid it would not be in my power to save the part. The prepuce was removed,
and

and I ordered compresses dipt in a solution of plantain and opium to be constantly applied. In seven days, the parts lost their fœtid stench, the natural moisture returned, many sloughs separated, and in the space of a month, by the use of the cortex, &c. his cure was complete.

OBSERVATION XI.

A GENTLEMAN applied to me for a phymosis, which he had suffered for a long time. The whole surface of the glans was covered with chancres ; the inflammation had been considerably increased by the improper application of white vitriol. This was soon dispersed, by the use of the usual remedies, and he was soon freed from all other complaints.

OBSERVATION XII.

A GENTLEMAN, who had a paraphymosis of an enormous size, applied to

me for advice. There was a chancre, which had destroyed the frænum, and eat away a considerable part of the prepuce. There was great reason to fear a gangrene. He was radically cured by the usual remedies.

OBSERVATION XIII.

A GENTLEMAN, upwards of sixty years of age, applied to me for advice in a phymosis, which had more or less afflicted him for several years. He declared to me he never had a venereal complaint in his life. I was well assured that his present symptom did not proceed from that cause. He was perfectly cured by the usual remedies.

OBSERVATION XIV.

I WAS desired, by an eminent merchant of this city, to examine a paraphymosis, which his son, about five or six years of age, had been afflicted with for some time.

Emollient

Emollient cataplasms had been tried without success : those of bread and milk had failed ; I ordered one prepared with plantain. This dispersed the paraphymosis in a few days time.

OBSERVATION XV.

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. GLAUC-
CESTER, Surgeon of his Majesty's Sixty-
fifth Regiment of Infantry.*

“ A SERJEANT of our corps, who had, for some time, been afflicted with a phymosis, which bid defiance to the common applications in such cases. His penis was so inflated, that it was with difficulty he could steep it in a common size tumbler, which was filled with fomentation. He was blooded, purged, and put under a course of mercury ; but this treatment only lessened the inflammation.

“ The surprising attachment of the prepuce to the glans, together with an uncommon

mon stricture, still remained, although he had mercury exhibited into the system for upwards of twenty-one days. His mouth became sore, and he spit near three pints a day.

“ Two complaints now attacked him still more difficult to subdue than the phymosis; a callous tumour on the border of the prepuce, and two schirrous chords on the glans. This kind of hardness often assumes a cancerous quality, notwithstanding the most regular treatment—I was still apprehensive of the consequences—I adopted the practice you recommend—His prepuce was soon set at liberty, and by the assistance of the apozem his cure was complete.”

OBSERVATION XVI.

A POOR coachman was attacked with a terrible phymosis in consequence of a gonorrhœa; and having a jealous wife, through fear of the violence of her temper, lost his life. The unfortunate man concealed it, although

although confined to his bed. He was attended by an apothecary, under the idea of a fever.

His employer desired Mr. Bromfield and me to attend him, but it was too late; a mortification had taken place, and spread itself as high as his abdomen. He took near a pound of bark in three days; but our remedies only put off the evil day a little longer. He died on the fifth.

OBSERVATION XVII.

MANY years ago, when I was doing duty at the Royal Hospital at Chatham, a Hessian officer applied to me, labouring under a venereal complaint, attended with a phymosis. He was lately arrived from New York, and had been attacked in his voyage with a gonorrhœa. A phymosis coming on, the natural passage for the urine became blocked up, and it forced itself a way under the frænum, through prepuce and all.

In

In this manner he passed his urine for upwards of fourteen days. I never was more astonished at such a case remaining stationary, without its spreading and destroying him, for he had taken no remedies, except some purges of calomel, which was by no means adapted for his purpose.

Nothing saved this gentleman, but the unparalleled goodness of his constitution. He was cured, in the space of two months, in the usual way.

OBSERVATION XVIII.

A GENTLEMAN came from Norfolk to consult me for a phymosis, which attacked him regularly at the spring and fall of the year:—At these periods there issued a discharge of acrimonious matter from the glans, so as to glue the prepuce in such a manner, as to make it impossible to denude it. This gentleman's fluids were highly impregnated with a virulent humour. After
he

he went through a course of sweeteners, it never returned again.

OBSERVATION XIX.

A GENTLEMAN, who had been long plagued with a paraphymosis, applied to me for advice. The operation had been performed about six months before I saw him; but when healed, the stricture was as bad as ever. The hot bath always relieved him for the present, but it soon returned again. I examined his urethra with the attracting medicated sound, a description of which shall be given hereafter. This applied for the space of half an hour every day, brought away large quantities of acrimonious matter from the prostate gland and the surrounding parts, which, together with a course of sweeteners internally, made his cure complete in the space of two months.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION XX.

A JEW Merchant applied to me for advice—he had been for some years troubled with a callous tightness at the root of the penis. He had been circumcised in his youth, and the remaining prepuce became so attached to the body of the penis, as to be immoveable. Whether this was owing to the effects of this customary operation, or to his natural bad habit of body, I will not pretend to say; but I am of opinion, it would have been better for him if it had not been performed. He had a constant discharge of purulent matter behind the glans — this he was cured of in a few months; but his other symptoms he must bear the remainder of his life.

OBSER-

O B S E R V A T I O N X X I .

IN the year 1775, when our * regiment lay at Peterborough, James Champion, a brave young man, about twenty-four years of age, enlisted himself. When he was brought to me to be passed, his right testicle was the size of a large cocoa nut, with every symptom of a confirmed schirrous, which had existed two years, after a simple infection. I observed to him, that it was not a little surprising he ventured to go for a soldier. He immediately sunk with grief, and shedding tears, not a little affecting, informed me he run away from the hospital at Leeds, the night previous to his being castrated by the surgeons in the morning. I was much affected at his narrative, and felt for his condition. Having made my report to General Harcourt, who

* Sixteenth, or Queen's regiment of Light Dragoons, with which I was at that time, acting in my professional capacity.

then commanded the corps, and whose goodness of heart is not less remarkable, than his great military atchievements, he expressed a wish for me to admit him into the hospital, and try my endeavours to cure him. This was happily effected in the space of two months. He afterwards went to America with the regiment. In the former editions of my work, this case is laid down in a very particular manner.

OBSERVATION XXII.

A PERSON of great rank in life applied to me about two years ago, with regard to a schirrous hardness of his right testicle, which he had laboured under fourteen months. It came in consequence of a clap; and what was singular, the discharge still continued copious. He had used mercurial frictions for ten weeks, with the common applications to the part in such cases, under the care of an eminent man. I recommended

the extract of the grey nicker, about ten grains each day, and a cataplasm of the night-shade to the diseased gland, which cured him in the space of two months.

OBSERVATION XXIII.

ABOUT three years ago, a young gentleman fencing at Mr. Reda's school, had a foil broke upon him by his antagonist; the point of it, before he could recover himself from his lounge, penetrated through his flannel dress, and made a contusion on the inferior point of the right testicle. The skin was merely scratched; however, in four hours time an inflammation came on so rapidly, as to be the size of a large cocoa nut before bed-time.

Being present when the accident happened, I rendered him every relief possible. In the space of a week the inflammatory symptoms were conquered, but a surprising fluctuation of water had gathered in the

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vaginal

vaginal coat. In a few days more I introduced a canula, and drew off a pint of clear water. His testicle was suspended. He took the bark for some time, which effectually cured him, and he has ever since enjoyed good health.

OBSERVATION XXIV.

MANY years ago, when I was surgeon to the military hospital at Chatham, I was consulted by a gentleman in the neighbourhood relative to a diseased testicle. The swelling was of an enormous size. Perceiving it contained a liquid, I determined, with his consent, to make a puncture. This I did on the most depending part, and I extracted near two pounds of a reddish liquor.

I then raised it with one hand, and with the other examined the state of the spermatic vessels, which were swelled, but not schirrous. Mr. Gloucester, surgeon of the sixty-
fifth

fifth regiment, who also attended, was of opinion with myself, that the operation might be performed with safety. He was rejoiced at the encouragement we gave him, and consented to have it done next morning, if I would undertake it; for he was willing to undergo it, from his long-suffering, even if his life should be in danger.

Having laid open and dissected the tumour, I detached it entirely from the neighbouring parts and spermatic vessels, which I did not tie up, but contented myself with covering them with dry lint, compresses, and a proper bandage, which was assisted very much by the service of Mr. Gloucester. On the third day we took off the upper bandages, and on the fifth the remainder fell off. In five weeks this gentleman was perfectly well. The only inconvenience that attended this operation, was a tumefaction of the spermatic vessels, which was remedied in two or three days by the camphorated fomentation.

OBSERVATION XXV.

A RECRUIT was brought to me to be passed; he was a robust young man, about twenty-four years of age; his right testicle was of an enormous size; previous to this he had enlisted himself with two recruiting parties, but the surgeons would not pass him, on account of his testicle, and was in consequence discharged. On examination, I found it to be an amazing hydrocele: I introduced a trocar, and drew off a pint and half of clear water; his testicle was perfectly sound; he had no venereal complaint. I kept him in the hospital a month, where he got perfectly well. He remained in the garrison three months after, and there was no return of his complaint. He could give no account of his case; he said he did not remember to have had any injury done the part; he afterwards went to the West Indies with the Royals. Surgeon
Young

Young of that regiment, to whom I reported the case, did me the favour to write to me from Jamaica, that this man never had the least return of his hydrocele; the time then elapsed was four years.

OBSERVATION XXVI.

A GENTLEMAN of a good constitution, about thirty years of age, applied to me in the utmost distress of mind, on account of a considerable, indurated, and uniformly smooth tumour of one of his testicles, with which he had been troubled for many months.

He informed me that he was a married man, and had been so for the space of a year, and that he could not account for the cause of his complaint.

There was not the least discolouration of the scrotum, nor had he ever experienced

much pain in the part, and this was at uncertain intervals. He was much cast down, totally despairing of any relief, but from the extirpation of the part; which operation had been strongly recommended to him by an experienced surgeon of his acquaintance, under whose care he had been for three months. During this time he had freely used mercurial frictions to the affected part, and, at intervals, taken a number of internal medicines, but without effect. I was happy in this case, when I examined minutely into the patient's symptoms, to afford him great consolation; for notwithstanding, to appearance, the case was unfavourable, I by no means considered it as hopeless; and that if at last an operation should be found necessary, it might, with as great propriety, be done some time hence as at present, and with equal probability of success. In the interim, he might possibly be so far relieved, as to render it unnecessary. He immediately committed himself to my care: I began by giving ten grains of the extract of grey nicker every night, and the decoction of
bark

bark during the day; a fomentation of hemlock to the part, and at intervals a cataplasm applied to the gland.

For near four months this method was pursued; at the end of this time the tumour was removed, and there remained only a small degree of hardness of the epididymis. This was completely dispersed by a plaister of mercury and soap. This gentleman has had no return of his complaint, and now enjoys a good state of health.

OBSERVATION XXVII.

ABOUT four years ago a young gentleman, twenty-two years of age, applied to me, in company with his father, for my opinion relative to a disorder in one of his testicles, with which he had been for a great while afflicted.

After having followed, for a considerable time, the directions of a surgeon of eminence,

nence, without any effect, he was, in consultation, advised to part with the testicle. With reluctance it appeared he consented to the proposition; but when the day was appointed for the operation, and the hour arrived, every thing being ready for the purpose, the young gentleman, on a sudden, was so intimidated, that he retracted, and would not submit; his distress of mind was very great, and his father much affected. On examination, it was void of pain; no discolouration of the skin, the scrotum smooth and uniform, but the testicle hard, knotty, and irregular.

I treated this young gentleman in the same manner as my patient in the last Observation, and it was attended with the like success. I was happy to make a cure of him in the space of three months, and he continues, in every respect, perfectly well.

O B S E R V A T I O N XXVIII.

WHEN I was in Paris in 1788, *Monf. Petit*, a celebrated surgeon, did me the favour to take me to a patient of his under cure of a hydrocele. He was a gentleman about forty years of age. He had been tapped four times in the space of a year. After the last operation, which was three months before I saw him, *Monf. Petit* let a canula, of his own construction, remain in the aperture. It was removed every day, and the part dressed. There had been, at intervals, considerable discharges of water, but it could not now accumulate, for it run through the aperture as soon as collected. This eminent surgeon adopted this method, with a view to form an ulcer, to penetrate through the vaginal coat, and to be kept open till every appearance of a watery discharge had ceased.

I was

I was struck with the idea, as it most undoubtedly is an ingenious one. By proper applications and internal medicines, Monf. Petit made a cure of his patient in the space of six months, by keeping this artificial fistulas ulcer open.

Two years ago I was favoured with an account of this case, and that the treatment turned out effectual, not the least collection of water having taken place ever since. I am at present treating a gentleman in this manner, which I hope will turn out as successful.

OBSERVATION XXIX.

SOME time ago a gentleman applied to me for assistance relative to a wasting of his right testicle: the spermatic chord was greatly relaxed, so much, that this testicle hung near four inches below the other. A few months previous to this, it had been inflamed and swelled by a venereal complaint.

He

He told me he laboured under great debility, and though a young man had lost his vigour. I was not without my fears, that he was not perfectly free from the virus; I therefore put him under a course of sweeteners; he afterwards took the cortex, and by strengthening applications to the part, in the space of four months the testicle became revived, and he got in every respect perfectly well.

OBSERVATION XXX.

I WAS lately sent for by a gentleman, who was suddenly seized with an inflammatory swelling near his right groin, attended with great pain, which his apothecary, who was then attending him for a clap, supposed was a rupture, and would require an operation commonly called the bubonocoele. On examination, it proved to be his testicle, which never had come down from the abdominal ring. I treated him in the same manner

manner as other swellings of the testicles in similar cases, and he very soon got well. If an operation had been performed here, it would have been next thing to murder.

C H A P. III.

S E C T I O N I.

Of the Nature and Properties of the attracting medicated Sound.

AS I shall have frequent occasion, in the following Sections on the diseases of the urethra, to make mention of the above application, I shall take an opportunity in this place to give some description of it.

It is to the Chevalier Gerrard the world is indebted for the discovery of this admirable composition: it is prepared in the form of a bougie, and introduced into the urinary passage much in the same manner. It is by this preparation we are, now-a-days, enabled to form a positive conclusion, whether

ther the patient has a sound or unsound urinary passage, after venereal complaints, or other causes. If introduced into the urethra, and remaining there about the space of fifteen or twenty minutes, when withdrawn, it is common to perceive the purulent matter attached to it, where that part of it comes in contact with the diseased glands. This matter is of various colours, according to the nature of the malady, sometimes greenish, sometimes of a yellow hue, and at others white, which is the mildest of all ; but it not unfrequently happens, that the discharge from foul ulcers is of a sanguinous cast. If the urethra is free from disease, no such appearance will ever take place, if the medicated sound was to be continued in it ever so long ; but such is its wonderful property, that if the urethra is in the least diseased in any part of it, from the neck of the bladder to the orifice of the passage, this preparation only, lying in the canal for the space of fifteen minutes, on drawing it out, will shew whether the urethra is, or is not, affected. Its introduction

duction is a true criterion, to ascertain whether or not there are any ulcers in the passage, or any of the glands diseased. By the use of it about twenty or thirty minutes a day, for the space of three months, I have known the most obstinate habitual stranguaries cured, which had for years baffled the efforts of the most eminent in the healing art. The medicines taken internally were the extract of grey niker, and now and then the wolf's bane. These cures were performed by the property of the sound, in attracting the virulent stimulating matter from the prostate glands. During the first month, the discharge was of a yellow cast, mixed with green; it afterwards becomes of a white cast, gets milder and milder, till a cure is performed. This medicated sound is also endued with the property of melting or dissolving collosities in the urinary canal, without giving the least pain to the sufferer.

Its quality, in attracting purulent matter from any diseased part of the urethra, is wonderful, as it is visible to the eye on extracting

tracting it ; for whatever part of the urethra is diseased, that part of the sound which comes in contact with it digests it, and on being extracted, is covered with the dissolved substance. Hence, by a regular application of the medicated sound, the most happy effects are produced, not only in curing those complaints of the urethra, where they actually exist ; but its introduction for a few minutes is a sure criterion, whether any of those parts are in the least diseased, which must always afford the patient comfort and satisfaction. Besides the introduction of it, and continuance in the urethra, is attended with no kind of pain whatsoever, its action upon the diseased part being insensible.

SECTION II.

On the Disorders of the Urinary Passage.

THE frequent diseases of the urethra to be met with in practice, the difficulty of ascertaining the particular seat and real causes of them, the dangers that attend, and numerous obstacles that occur, in a treatment which is methodical, render an account of them a very essential part of the history of venereal complaints, and deserve the most serious attention of practitioners. The ancient professors of surgery, and the art of healing, were but little acquainted with this subject; and the moderns, notwithstanding the light which they must have acquired, by the great discoveries and improvements made in the animal œconomy, afford no great satisfaction. Guided by experience, I have studied these diseases with uncommon

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appli-

application ; I have eagerly seized every opportunity to become acquainted with their nature, their symptoms, and their various appearances.

I am happy to say, that a practice of a series of years has enabled me to form true and accurate ideas of these disorders. To be thoroughly convinced that the diseases of the urethra have been treated with too much brevity, ambiguity, or obscurity, we need only read what hitherto has been published on the subject. To avoid these faults, I have endeavoured to consider these diseases in every light of which they are susceptible. In all my investigations, I have consulted nature herself; the basis of the observations that compose the body of this work. We will always run less risk of being bewildered in our pursuits, when we follow the path pointed out by her.

Several physicians and surgeons, little acquainted with the disorders of the urethra, give the improper name of carnosities to

every protuberance, which form the internal sides of the tube, projects into its cavity, and there forms obstructions, that prevent or retard, more or less, the discharge of the urine. This name, far from explaining the nature of the disease, can only create a confusion of ideas, and throw fresh obscurity on a subject already involved in too much darkness. In the early part of my life, when I was young in experience, I will candidly own, that I laboured under this error in judgment; but the frequent opportunities I have had of practice upon the living, and examining minutely the diseased urethras, after death has long convinced me of the falsity of this supposition.

The word carnosity considered in its etymology, means nothing more than a fleshy excrescence, or a protuberance, formed by proud flesh. Now has it ever been demonstrated, that there is in the urethra any one fleshy part from which these excrescences can arise? It is therefore certain, that carnosities of the urethra, to speak according to the rigour

of the term, which should always be done in medical and chirurgical enquiries, have no real existence. But to take the word in the meaning which it is used by these authors, they are still guilty of an error, when they assert, that carnosities form all the obstructions which choak the urinary passage.

Some of the moderns, more learned than the ancients, and the major part of their cotemporaries, assign different causes of obstructions in the urethra, but no one of them has favoured us with a clear, accurate, and methodical detail on this subject. I will endeavour to supply this defect, by laying down five different kinds of obstructions, formed in the internal parts of the urethra. The first I shall call a swelling of the spongy substance of the urethra, which stretches into the cavity of this passage. But not to depart entirely from the ideas and terms of our ancient, and a number of our modern writers, I shall call this species of obstruction by the name of spongy carnosities. The second is a tumour of the different
glands

glands of the urethra and the prostate gland. The third an excessive dilatation of the vessels, which compose the membrane, with which that tube is lined. The fourth, the turgid edges of ulcers formed therein, and scars left by these ulcers. Fifth, the ligaments of the internal membrane of the urethra.

SECTION III.

Of Obstructions of the Urethra, commonly called Spungy Carnosities.

THE first of the five species of obstruction which I mentioned in the preceding Chapter, is a swelling of the spungy substance of the urethra, which stretches into the cavity of this passage, and, as I said before, not to depart entirely from the idea and term given it by the generality of

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writers

writers on this subject, let it be understood as a spungy carnosity.

The knowledge of anatomy enlightens our mind with regard to the true nature of the urinary tube, and teaches us, that the thickness of it, almost from one end to the other, is formed by a spungy substance, that is, by the continuity of numberless little cells communicating with one another; that this spungy substance is lodged between two membranes, one of which forms the convexity, the other the concavity, of the urethra: that this concavity is lined with a thin membrane, very susceptible of extension; that the first part of the urethra is merely membranous, and apparently a continuation of the coats of the bladder; that it sinks into niches all along the upper surface of the prostate, to which it is closely joined and adheres; that from the bottom of the cavity of the urinary tube in this part there arises an eminence, called verumontanum, that the canal, in stretching itself out, forms a second eminence, which

Cooper.

Cooper calls the bulb of the urethra; that the spongy substance, when it separates from the bulb, grows thinner, and entirely environs the urinary tube, which it accompanies to the gland, where this same spongy substance becomes much larger, that the little cells, the assemblage of which forms the spongy substance, always contain a larger or smaller quantity of blood. Lastly, That as these cells are inflated, the distension of the membranes of the urethra, and especially of that which lines the inside of that tube, becomes more considerable. Let us suppose, that in a healthy state, the action of the spongy substance of the urethra on the membrane that lines its inside, and the resistance of this membrane, are equal. This equality of powers is a necessary consequence of the general laws of motion, to which every part of the animal œconomy is subject; they only remain invariably in the situation assigned them by nature, because detained by opposite but equal powers.

But this is very different, when the urinary tube is in an unnatural state. Whenever the internal membrane of this passage is weakened to a certain degree, then the spongy substance, which corresponds to the weak part, fixes there, acts against fibres too weak to resist, dilates, lengthens, and forces them into the cavity of the tube; whence arises a tumour, to be understood as a spongy carnosity. Anxious to make my idea on this complaint as clear as possible, I shall have recourse to the analogy of an aneurism,

This swelling of an artery is produced by such causes as weakens the resistance of the membranes of it, either by incision or corrosion, or some disease of the blood vessel itself.

Hence the sanguinous fluid is hurried to the part where the spring is relaxed, dilates it, and occasions an aneurismal tumour.

Thus

Thus the inward coat of the membrane of the urethra, when acted upon, is not always able to resist the pressure of the external coat on the intermediate cavity; whence arises a tumour on the inside. The analogy is the more perfect, as the progress of a carnosity is as insensible as that of an aneurism. The progress of both may be retarded by a well-directed compression, but neither can be totally prevented or destroyed. When we reflect on the fine texture of the membrane, which lines the inside of the urethra, this mode of accounting for these complaints must, in my opinion, appear, on a little reflection, in a very clear light; on the want of a fixed point of support on the side of the cavity of it; on the number of causes which may weaken its fibres, such as scars, or old ulcers; and on the facility with which the spongy substance is unfolded and dilated.

And these observations are supported by such a number of proofs in the dissections I have made, which is indeed the only evidence

dence that can be obtained, in cases of this nature, which does not admit of the testimony of our senses. When we consider the first causes of carnosities, and other complaints of the urethra, it requires but little penetration to see, that they are occasioned by obstinate venereal runnings, or by a method of cure which confines the venereal matter, which is always the grand object of an able practitioner to expel.

In such circumstances is it possible, that the interior membrane of the urethra, so extremely thin and delicate in its texture, should be ulcerated, sprinkled, wetted, and penetrated, for a length of time, with a sharp, virulent, putrid liquor, making a continual impression on the surrounding fibres, without affecting and weakening the parts, especially where the virus has long been confined? In these places the little cells of the spongy substance, finding but little resistance to their expansion, will make their way into the cavity of the urethra; and by dilating some part of the interior
mem-

membrane, will form little membranous receptacles, which will be filled with a spongy substance; while the convexity sinks, more or less, into the cavity of the tube. This method of accounting for this complaint appears to be the most plausible, as well as *practical* to me, that can possibly be given of venereal spongy carnosities. Prior to the discovery of the attracting medicated sound, (the remedy described in the first Section of this Chapter) the most effectual method in use was the introduction of bougies of various compositions into the urethra; and being wore for some time, great ease was often given to the patient: but the cure was only palliative; the symptoms soon returned, and the bougies never effected a radical cure. However, they mitigated the symptoms for a considerable time, and procured a freer discharge of urine. These effects must be ascribed to the weight of the solid body, which pressing upon the carnosities, flattened and reduced their bulk. These tumours, therefore, must be of such a nature, as to yield

to

to the pressure of a hard body, a quality very observable in spungy carnosities.

What, in reality, can be more natural, than to suppose, that spungy globules, covered with a thin membrane, should easily yield under the pressure of a solid body? Thus we may easily explain all the phenomena which accompanied the method of cure by bougies in general, and account for the sudden removal of the symptoms with which these complaints are frequently attended.

But the constant return of the malady, which I have observed on intermitting the use of the common bougies, affords a demonstrable proof of the existence of these spungy elastic tumours. It is true, they had yielded to the pressure of the solid body; the little spungy cells had retired into their natural situation; the membrane that covered them was sunk; the bougie repeatedly applied and held in the passage, had effectually compressed their remains; hence present

sent ease was given, and the patient made happy of having a radical cure : but a little excess afterwards disappointed him in this fond assurance.

Accidental causes not unfrequently contribute to the rarefaction of the blood, accelerate the velocity of its motion towards the spongy substance of the urethra, or increase its volume. From this moment the little cells are dilated, and forces the weak membrane into the cavity of the tube, enters the urethra again with it, and reproduces the spongy tumour.

Such is the course of natural causes, which the man of science can never mistake.

The number of dead bodies, which I have dissected, whose urinary passages, to the day of their death, had been troubled with these spongy carnosities, has long given me a positive proof of the true nature of them.

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I have sometimes been surprized in some urethras, that I have opened after death, to find not the least remains of tumour or obstruction in the passage, which could have given occasion to the symptoms I have observed during their life.

However, a little reflection soon removed my surprize. It is very evident, that while the patient is alive, the blood continually impelled towards the spongy substance of the urethra, enters the little cells which forms the internal substance of the carnosities, more or less distended; but at the approach of death, the circulation of the blood decreasing gradually, and the vital powers which gave motion to the fluids being weakened, the little cells are naturally emptied, sunk by their own weight, and returned into their natural situation. But here I beg to be understood, that this disappearance can only happen where these tumours are of short duration: for when the matter has gathered for some time into the little cells of the carnosities, it gets thick
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and hard, and cannot be radically dissolved, without the application of the attracting medicated sound.

The reasons I have assigned as the grounds of my opinion, on the formation of spungy carnosities in the urethra, overthrow the system of those who rank in the class of carnosities, schirrous glands of the urethra, hardened scars, and callous borders of ulcers in the parts. These are certainly obstructions formed in the urethra; but there is, as I shall make appear hereafter, an essential difference between them and the spungy carnosities, which make the subject of this Section. I shall therefore proceed to a more interesting detail.

Every practitioner must have observed frequent variations in the volume of carnosities in the urethra.

They are sometimes extremely small, sometimes of a moderate size, and at other times so very large, that they entirely obstruct

struct the passage. This difference of size is owing to the greater or less quantity of spongy substance that enters it. In a pamphlet I published a few years ago, I quoted an observation so singular, that it would scarce have obtained any credit, if I had not received it from an author, whose great candour and professional talents had placed him out of the reach of every suspicion. This observation contained an account of a carnosity, which, according to the late Professor Cleghorn, of the college of Dublin, sometimes stretched to such a length, that it appeared out of the urethra. The patient was a Serjeant in the twenty-second regiment of foot, to which the learned Professor was then Surgeon. When it happened out of the urethra, Mr. Cleghorn told me he used to cut it off. This was a species of carnosity of a very singular nature. Sometimes a single carnosity obstructs the urethra, at other times several concur to produce this effect. I have seen patients, in whom the whole passage was crouded with them; where there are many, they are either set very thick,

thick, and heaped together, or form a line at some distance from each other. Spungy carnosities may arise indiscriminately in any part of the urinary passage, experience has convinced me, that they are generally seated in the fossæ navicularis, towards the lower end of the bulb of the urethra, near the verumontanum, yet they are not unfrequently to be found in the membranous part of the urethra, which lies along the prostate gland.

Some of these complaints are recent, and others of longer standing: the first is owing (as before observed) to an inflation of the spungy substance, forced, with its membranous cover, into the cavity of the urethra; they are soft, flexible, and susceptible of resolution; the others are more or less hard, callous, and if capable of resolution, it requires a length of time, and a well adapted application to the part.

The blood contained in the spungy substance in recent carnosities, is still in a state
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of fluidity, and the little membranes, of which they are composed, are nearly as supple as ever: but, on the other hand, in carnosities of a long date, the blood is thickened, fixed, and hardened; the solid parts adhere firmly, are dried, and have lost their flexibility.

These complaints, like many others incident to the human body, have their course. At first the patient scarce knows he is attacked: the progress of the tumour may be remarkably slow or rapid; when it begins to fix itself, the patient's fears are then awakened, and he begins to feel some of those alarming symptoms of which I mean to give a detail.

The venereal poison is certainly the most common cause of these diseases in the urethra: they often follow claps of a bad sort, when stubborn, neglected, or ill-managed; or ill-treated ulcers of the passage. They sometimes do not appear till several years after the venereal poison is apparently done away;

away ; at other times they make their attack much sooner ; sometimes I have known them to accompany the venereal disease itself ; they must then both be treated at the same time, which renders the case complicated ; but we are by no means always to conclude, that the causes of obstructions in the urethra are always venereal. Such a conclusion can only be dictated by ignorance, or an ungenerous motive.

I have often been called to patients who were troubled with carnosities in the urethra, though they had never had the venereal disease ; and indeed nothing more is required to produce them, than a resistance of any part of the internal membrane of the urethra, unequal to the pressure of the spongy substance corresponding to it.

The internal application of the attracting medicated sound to the urethra, is the true method to ascertain the existence of carnosities ; their number, size, and situation, may be exactly known by this application.

The practitioner will be able to discover their causes, by attending to the account the patient gives him, and by informing himself whether he ever had, or now has, any degree of the venereal disease upon him. It will be easy to conclude from the effects, that the urinary passage cannot be contracted by carnosities, without bringing on symptoms proportionably violent. Patients, who labour under these complaints, are often troubled with a difficulty in making water, accompanied with heat and sharp pains; their urine is often muddy, red, sometimes bloody, thick, and frequently deposits a sediment, which might be mistaken for purulent matter; the bladder contains a mucus, which the patient cannot get rid of, without as many efforts as if he had the stone.

He is sometimes troubled with a continual inclination to make water, while a few drops only come from him. A loss of the retentive faculty is often the consequence of obstructions seated near the neck of the bladder,

bladder, unless a proper application is made to the diseased part, with the use of internal remedies.

These patients frequently let fall some drops which spoil the linen; and this is always the case, when more carnosities than one are placed at certain distances from each other. Sometimes the urine, carried beyond the sphincter of the bladder, but there confined by carnosities, presses on the sides of the canal, and opens a new passage, and occasions fistulas. The most dreadful consequences of this complaint, when not properly attended to, is a total suppression of urine; and then the urinary passage becomes sometimes so shut, as to bid defiance to the introduction of every instrument for relief.

When this is the case, nothing remains now for the safety of the patient but the puncture in perinæo; and this operation is a forlorn hope: but as death is now quite inevitable, it ought to be performed at any

rate to give him a chance*; for as the urine cannot pass through the common duct, it lodges in the cavity of the bladder, accumulates, dilates the sides, acquires a violent degree of sharpness, irritates and wounds the internal membrane, and causes an inflammation, which must soon end in a mortification. To all this must be added the reflux of the urine into the mass of blood, in case the unhappy sufferer should be able, for a short time, to bear with the disease. Nothing less than an accurate knowledge of the nature of these complaints in the urethra, and a particular attention to every symptom, however slight in appearance, can enable the surgeon to form a well grounded judgment on the possibility of the cure, of the duration of the disease, or the accidents which may probably attend its progress. Hence we may conclude, that the earlier an application is made for relief, happy will it be for the patient.

* We may then say with the Poet,
 “ Thus far we have done our duty,
 “ The rest we leave to Heaven.

This should be done whenever he finds the least suspicious symptom in the urinary tube. Serious consequences may then be prevented—or perhaps spinning out a miserable existence.

OBSERVATION XXXI.

On a Dysury, with Excrescences in the Urethra.

1785.

IN the year 1784, a gentleman came from Norfolk to consult me relative to a dysury, and other affections of the urethra, which had cruelly tormented him for several years, the consequence of repeated gonorrhœas, which he had never been able to get rid of. He had constantly a purulent discharge from the urethra, and his dysury frequently degenerated into a total suppression, which was, as is customary, attended with a violent fever, great restlessness, tension of the lower belly, a reflux of urine, which occasioned faintness, and sometimes vomiting, with a lethargic disposition; at others a delirium, and many other symptoms, which exposed the patient to imminent danger. I believe his youth and a good constitution, saved his life; but it would be great rashness to depend always upon con-

these. The first excrescences, which was flat and long, was situated near the middle of the urethra; the other near the verumontanum, which was ulcerated, and supplied the virulent discharge, which he had never been able to get rid of before his application to me. A few years after I met with this gentleman in Paris, in the enjoyment of that health which I had the happiness to procure him.

OBSERVATION XXXII.

On a Difficulty of making Urine, with a diseased Bladder.

A GENTLEMAN, turned of fifty years, made application to me in 1784, having been troubled many years with a great difficulty in making water; he had a virulent discharge, the remains of an old gonorrhœa, and a frequent provocation to urine. The two first complaints, which were owing to two carnosities situated near the verumontanum, he was cured of in the space of two months,

months, by the application of the fount and the extract of the nicker and aconite—but his frequent inclination to make water, which I discovered afterwards, proceeded from a diseased bladder, remained in spite of all my skill.

OBSERVATION XXXIII.

On a painful Tension of the Urethra, from the Neck of the Bladder to the Glans.

A GENTLEMAN consulted me in the year 1785, who, after having been apparently cured of an obstinate virulent running, in about a year after was attacked with a frequent irritation to make water, which deprived him completely of the enjoyments of life. The urine was attended with a sharp sensation of pain, and a violent tension succeeded it from the neck of the bladder to the orifice of the passage. His water was sometimes muddy and foetid; he was a temperate liver, having drank nothing stronger than small beer for a long time. I
found

found in his urethra an ulcer and fungus excrescences, that were flat and long, between the excretory ducts of the feminal vessels, and those of Cowper's glands. The found was applied at intervals for near three months, which brought away prodigious quantities of foetid sanies matter attached to it after every application. This gentleman was so fortunate as to be restored to his pristine health, and to return to his usual way of life.

OBSERVATION XXXIV.

On a Suppression of Urine, attended with the usual Symptoms.

1785.

A COUNTRY Gentleman, who had laboured under a gonorrhœa upwards of eight months, and whose cure was attempted by internal mercurials, was attacked three times with a suppression of urine. He came to town for my advice. I found it was occasioned by a swelling of spongy flesh, situated in the middle of the passage, and

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was the effect of his gonorrhœa. It entirely gave way to the application of the sound. The remains of his gonorrhœa was afterwards soon cured by the injection.

OBSERVATION XXXV.

On a Urethral Complaint.

1785.

A COMMERCIAL Gentleman complained to me of a pricking pain within the urethra, and a very painful eruption on the right side of the root of the penis. He had used a number of remedies to no purpose; he did not look upon them as the consequence of an old gonorrhœa, which had been prematurely stopped by the use of injections; but having demonstrated to him that there was an ulcer in the urethra, opposite exactly to the eruption and pricking pain, he put himself under my care, and was cured in two months.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION XXXVI.

*An obtuse Pain in the Urethra, with the
Urine sometimes forked.*

1785.

A GENTLEMAN of a melancholy disposition had taken a large quantity of mercury, for an infection he imagined himself to labour under, on account of some wandering pains throughout his body, and some other little complaints, which came on after a gonorrhœa, which seemed to have been cured long ago. When he applied to me, he complained only of an obtuse pain now and then in the urethra, and his urine frequently came away forked. I found three fordid ulcers: the first in the beginning of the passage, the second in the middle, and the third on the excretory ducts of the seminal vessels. They were all healed in the space two months. He afterwards enjoyed perfect health, being entirely freed from the gloomy melancholy which had so long afflicted him.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION XXXVII.

On Carnosities of the Canal, which were not owing to any Venereal Cause.

1786.

I MET with a country gentleman, who, for the last seven years, had been troubled with carnosities in the urethra, which were not owing to any venereal cause. He made use of the attracting medicated sound for three months, which had the desired effect. In the course of a long practice I have met with the like cases, where there was not the least reason to suspect the cause above-mentioned.

OBSERVATION XXXVIII.

On a Swelling of the Perinæum of the Size of a small Egg, and Carnosities in the Urinary Canal,

1786.

* MR. BROMFIELD accompanied me to see an elderly gentleman, who had, for

* The late William Bromfield, Esq. of Conduit-street, who, with brilliant talents in his profession, blended the character of a gentleman, and whose loss to society will be long regretted.

about

about six months, been troubled with a swelling on the perinæum of the size of a small egg, and with carnosities in the urethra, which had frequently occasioned a retention of urine. Several of the profession had endeavoured to remove the swelling. He applied to me for advice. Mr. Bromfield coincided with me in opinion, to apply the sound, with a view to dissolve the carnosities, and a cataplasim of hemlock three times a day to the tumour. In about two months he was cured of both, though the swelling was so indurated, that it really had every appearance of a schirrous. I have often met with very considerable tumours of this kind, which I have been obliged to attack internally, to correct the habit, as well as external applications *.

OBSER-

* These tumours are less dangerous than swellings of the prostate gland. I have always declined the use of those applications which tend to suppurate the matter. A tumour of the prostate gland is one of the most critical and dangerous complaints of the urethra; the cure will

OBSERVATION XXXIX.

On a purulent Abscess of the prostate Gland.

1786.

I WAS sent for by Mr. Inman, an eminent surgeon at Colchester, to visit a gentleman who had a purulent gathering in the prostate gland, from whence the suppuration spread itself into the neighbouring parts, viz. the fundament and perinæum.

will much depend on the vicious state of the liquor contained in the vessels of this gland: If it is schirrous, the cure cannot be performed by common bougies or hemlock, in ever so large quantities; besides, the cause is sometimes not venereal; but when the levan is of a malignant nature, the extract of grey nicker, with a decoction of the same, may change the state of this gland, which the attracting sound will contribute to bring about, particularly before the gland has acquired a sufficient degree of hardness. Much will depend here upon the skill of the practitioner to form a right judgment of the case.

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The distance was so great, it required some time to perform the journey to and fro ; his condition was serious, not only from the suppuration about this gland, but from a total suppression of urine. My advice was to clear the passage as soon as possible ; and our patient was obliged to be put into a hot bath, to help us to gain the wished for end. This gentleman obtained a perfect cure in the space of three months, under the care and direction of surgeon Inman.

O B S E R V A T I O N X L.

On a Retention of Urine, occasioned by the Tumefaction of the prostate Gland.

1786.

I WAS sent for by a man of rank about six miles from town, near threescore years old ; his complaint was a retention of urine. As soon as I arrived, I desired leave to examine the urethra ; I found an unsurmountable obstacle at the neck of the bladder,

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which

which prevented the flow of urine. The various attempts I made at different times to draw it off, all proved fruitless; every external application, and every internal medicine, was tried in vain. I desired that more assistance might be called in. Surgeon Bromfield and several physicians attended; found the same obstructions I had mentioned, and consequently could not draw any urine from the bladder. It was easy to perceive, that the obstruction was owing to a tumour of the prostate gland, which felt scirrhus to the touch. The patient had long been afflicted with unpleasant sensations about these parts, but unfortunately for him, he did not apply early enough for relief, which he might have obtained, and his life prolonged for many years. The sphincter of his bladder was now highly irritated: the only chance that now remained was tapping the perinæum; but Mr. Bromfield's opinion and mine was negatived by the rest of the physicians; and no other method of relief being proposed, he died two days after.

OBSERVATION XLI.

On a Retention of Urine, occasioned by a Tumour of the prostate Gland, communicated by Surgeon Gloucester, of the 63th Regiment of Foot.

1786.

A NON-COMMISSIONED Officer of the above corps had, for some time, laboured under a difficulty in making water ; he observed that it often came away forked, and sometimes in a very small stream. He was seized all at once with a retention of urine : being upon guard the preceding night, had been irregular, and the obstruction proved so obstinate at first, as to bid defiance to the introduction of any instrument into the passage for relief. At length, I put as much fresh butter as I could force into the holes of the probe, and having carried it into the bladder, the butter soon melted, the urine passed, and the patient enjoyed some moments ease. But unfortunately a mortifi-

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cation

cation supervening, he died a few days after. The parts affected being opened, I found the prostate gland considerably swelled, and of a cartilaginous consistence. The introduction of fresh butter into the openings of the instrument is of great use, as often as the tube of the urethra is in a phlogistic state. If this unfortunate man had been sufficiently attentive to the diminished stream of his urine, I am well convinced, that the means which might have been adopted early, would have prevented the fatal consequence.

OBSERVATION XLII.

On a Retention of Urine, occasioned by a phlogistic Tumour of the prostate Gland, irritated by a small Stone, communicated by Surgeon Gloucester, of the same Regiment.

1786.

AN officer of our corps was seized with a retention of urine, being twenty miles distant from the head quarters—It was three days before I was sent for—Many attempts had

had been made to probe him, but in vain. After putting him to considerable pain, I was fortunate to conduct the instrument into the bladder, and drew from thence all the urine it contained. I was obliged to repeat the operation ten days successively, for without it he could pass no water. From the obstruction the probe met with, when it came near the seat of the prostate gland, I concluded, that the disorder was entirely owing to this gland, and advised the use of the elastic bougie, described by the Chevalier Gerrard, which I conducted very cautiously into the bladder. The patient now made water without taking the * bougie out of the urethra.

When it was taken out a copious flow of urine followed, but was soon stopped by the compression of the prostate gland, which swelled at that moment. However, having continued the use of the bougies for about two months, he voided a small stone, and was perfectly cured.

* It was the Chevalier Gerrard's hollow bougie.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION XLIII.

On an Obstruction of the Seminal Fluid.

1786.

A GENTLEMAN, about thirty years of age, consulted me for a most serious complaint, which he had laboured under several years. He possessed a large estate, and married to a beautiful woman upwards of six years; but hitherto there was little hopes of his having any issue. He had consulted all the physicians of any note: some ordered him alteratives, with the hemlock extract, others sent him to drink the waters of Aix-la-Chapelle, and some had sent him to bathe in the sea. However, unfortunately, these means had proved ineffectual: he informed me, that he never had a venereal complaint of any consequence, except a simple gonorrhœa about ten years ago, of which he was perfectly cured in a short time.

I found

I found him labouring under great depression of spirits, from the symptom which now afflicted him. During the act of coition, the semen, in its passage out of the feminal vessels into the urethra, was obstructed by a contraction of the mouths of the ducts, which empty themselves into it. Hence the feminal fluid, instead of being emitted in the natural way, stopped all of a sudden, by their contracting instead of dilating. The penis became immediately flaccid, and the semen continued to drain slowly off for a considerable time after. He enjoyed very good health in every other respect, and was perfectly free from every venereal symptom.

On examination, I found there was a surprising degree of spasmodic affection in the feminal ducts. I immediately advised the use of the medicated sound to be applied about an hour each day, with a view to bring on a digestion about the verumontanum, which was the seat of the malady. This had the wished for effect; for every day that part

of the found, which came in contact with these ducts, came out loaded with matter. This acted like an issue made on the external parts of the body, to relieve sundry diseases. It was continued near three months; during which time he took very little medicine, except a little of the extract of grey nicker. But some time before the expiration of this period, the obstruction, which proceeded from the spasm of those parts, was, in a great measure, done away; and now he was happy to find himself perfectly free from it. I afterwards advised sea-bathing. About a year after, his lady bore him a fine boy; and since, has had several children. He now thought himself the happiest of men. I had no doubt whatever but the want of the power of procreation proceeded from the cause above-mentioned.

OBSERVATION XLIV.

On a Wasting of the Testicle, with an Obstruction in the Urinary Passage.

1787.

A PERSON about thirty-six years of age applied to me, with regard to a wasting away of his right testicle, which had been coming, he told me, near five years. A little before it began to diminish, he had a gonorrhœa, which was apparently cured, and a consumption of the gland took place soon afterwards. It was little larger than a nutmeg—the other was its natural size, and had a sound feel. He had also a considerable stricture in the urethra, attended with a gleet, which he was cured of in about two months. But all my efforts proved in vain, to revive his testicle, the secreting faculty of which seemed entirely destroyed. However, he was lucky in having a sound one, which actually got somewhat larger, as the other wasted away, and he had, in every respect, the procreative faculty.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION XLV.

Painful Sensation in emitting the Seminal Fluid.

1789.

A GENTLEMAN, who never had a venereal complaint, consulted me with regard to a painful sensation, which always accompanied a discharge of the seminal fluid. He had laboured under it several years, and was very unhappy. I found, upon examining minutely into the circumstances of his case, that it proceeded from a spasmodic contraction of the verumontanum. By applications to the parts affected, and some internal remedies, he was perfectly cured in about three months, which gave him no small happiness of mind.

OBSERVATION XLVI.

Fistula in Perinæo.

1789.

A JEW Gentleman consulted me relative to the worst species of fistula in perinæo I had

had ever seen. He had no less than three holes between the fundament and point of the penis, through all of which his urine passed, as well as out of the orifice of the urethra. In this condition he had been several years: their diameters were large, and surrounded with callous edges, far beyond the power of our art to conquer. I gave him the best advice, to make his future days as comfortable as possible, but I would not undertake the cure of his case: and here we must lament the simple cause which gave rise to it, which was no more than a common gonorrhœa in the first instance.

OBSERVATION XLVII.

On the Seminal Fluid being discharged without any Sensation, accompanied with a Hydrocele.

1790.

A GENTLEMAN of a debilitated constitution consulted me, with regard to a large collection of water in his right testicle,
for

for which he had been tapped three times, but it constantly filled again. It attacked him, he told me, after having had a swelled testicle, the consequence of a clap; and ever since that period, all sensation in the emission of the semen was done away. I performed the operation for the radical cure of his hydrocele, which was attended with success—for two years are now elapsed without any collection. He is much better relative to the state of his seminal vessels, but far from being perfectly re-established.

OBSERVATION XLVIII.

On the Seminal Fluid discharging itself when voiding the Excrements.

1790.

A YOUNG Gentleman applied to me, who had laboured under a supposed consumption of the lungs upwards of three years. He had been sent to Lisbon with a view to establish his health; had tried all consumptive remedies—asses milk, goats whey,

whey, &c. and the balsamic drugs of the shops, but in vain. His physicians were of opinion, that the discharge from his urethra was by no means semen, but only the common mucus which lines that passage. But upon a minute examination into his case, I was of a very different way of thinking. When his feminal vessels were corroborated, and the involuntary discharge stopped, he recovered daily, gaining both flesh and strength, and never had the least tendency to consumption, but what arose from the above-mentioned cause.

C H A P. IV.

On Obstructions of the Urethra incident to the Glands, which correspond with that Passage.

IT has been observed by me in the preceding Chapter, that the end of the urethra was situated along the superior superficies of the prostate, to which it firmly adheres. This gland is of a considerable size, of a firm consistence, and of an irregular, oval figure, the basis of which corresponds with the neck of the bladder, and the top with the bulb of the urethra. Its outward coat is covered with a membrane partly muscular, and its inmost substance is composed of several little bags, like so many bellows, each of which has an excretory duct, opening into the first part of the urethra, near the lateral part of the verumontanum, where its circumference is largest. Cowper,

per, a famous anatomist, discovered two glands, which takes his name; they are about the size of a very small bean, of an oval figure, flattened, seated on the side of the urethra, near the bulb, covered with muscles known by the name of Acceleratories, each of which has an excretory duct, which advances a considerable way into the spongy substance before it pierces the internal membrane of the urinary passage, which it opens into in an oblique direction.

This gentleman is allowed to have discovered a third gland, much smaller than either of the other two, situated in the spongy substance of the urethra, where it bends under the os pubis, having a discharge through two little orifices into the cavity. The Chevalier Gerrard, equally distinguished for his anatomical knowledge, has described another gland of the size of an inch, inclining to a red colour, placed under the prostate in the spongy substance, between the two membranes of the urethra, going round the internal membrane of that passage,

passage, through which it makes several little apertures, which are not easily seen, any more than the little ducts which lead to them. In the subjects I have dissected, this gland did not appear to me to have so large a dimension as that described by the Chevalier. But it is seldom two subjects are exactly alike in their respective anatomical parts—Such a variety of difference we find in the animal œconomy.

It requires no small share of anatomical knowledge to discover this gland; and it is equally difficult to discover a particular gland seen by Mr. Morgagni under the extremity of the bulb, which discharges itself into the urethra.

This celebrated anatomist has given us the most accurate description ever published of the lacunæ in the inside of the urethra; the most considerable of which open in such parts of the cavity as lie nearest to the glans, especially under the frænum, and in the fossa navicularis; while the smaller ones
pierce

pierce indistinctly all the length of that passage, and are very numerous. These lacunæ answer excretory ducts, which begin from the glands, more or less visible, which are found in the spongy substance of the urethra; insomuch, that the convexity of the internal membrane is full of these glands. All this collection of glands, after having separated and refined different juices drawn from the mass of blood, discharge them into the common reservoir of the urethra.

As long as the separation and the excretion of these juices are performed, according to the established law of the natural functions, an obstruction of these glands is not to be dreaded; but if, from any cause whatever, the juices so far thicken in the lacunæ, or other reservoirs of these glands, as not to pass the narrow ducts or orifices of the excretory vessels, if, becoming viscous and clammy, they adhere to the sides of the reservoirs, and there accumulate. If the secretion in these glands is too copious, and the excretion is not proportioned to it; if

an outward compression stops the course of the fluids in the glands, and occasions a stagnation; if the lacunæ, or orifices of the excretory vessels of the glands, are obstructed by a thick matter lodged in the urethra, and lining some part of its sides; if heterogeneous virulent matter, of a thickening quality, mix with the juices which are filtered through the glands; if these glands become scirrhus, which is no uncommon case in the prostate; if an abscess, formed in this gland, causes it to swell towards its upper surface, in the niches of which the end of the urethra is sunk; in all these, and other like circumstances, glandulous obstructions will, more or less, affect the excretory passage of the urine.

It appears then certain, that the glands of the urethra may be obstructed, may be distended, and form tumours, which, spreading more or less into the cavity of this tube, contract or lessen its diameter.

Among

Among the glandular obstructions, we must carefully distinguish such as are recent from the old and inveterate: such as affect only one part of the urethra, from such as are situated in different and many parts; such as are placed near the glands, from the more distant; those of a size large enough to stop the passage of the urine, from such as only contract it; such as are the attendants on other diseases, either as cause or effect, from the simple and uncomplicated. If the disorder be produced by the obstruction of the smaller glands, or of the lacunæ, which are observable along the urethra, it will be susceptible of a more easy cure; but if the prostate be the seat of the obstruction, very considerable difficulties must attend the treatment.

The diseases of this gland require a very particular attention; they have been one of the chief objects of my investigations. These diseases are more frequent than is commonly imagined; they seemed incurable till I began

to use the attracting medicated sound, which is now about two years ago.

It is natural to conclude, from the silence of former practitioners, that they were but little acquainted with this branch of surgical knowledge. The great number of observations made, with all the exactness I was capable of, have convinced me, that the prostate gland is very liable to be swelled, from the stagnation of the fluid which is filtered through it, but chiefly from the stoppage of it in its membranes, where it accumulates, thickens, acquires some bad qualities, and continually, and naturally stretches the sides of these little membranous reservoirs: besides, it not unfrequently becomes schirrous, a natural consequence of those dispositions which render the contents of the prostate hard and concrete. I have sometimes seen its substance become cartilaginous, at other times I have found it full of a spongy matter, which is attracted and drawn off by the application of the medicated sound.

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This matter is often the cause of the habitual stranguary, and various other evils of the urethra and bladder. From experience I have likewise learned, that this gland is liable to a suppuration. If we consider the prostate as labouring under the least alarming of these disorders, I mean only in a state of tumefaction, we cannot but think the patient in some danger, especially if the swelling be very considerable.

For in this case the upper part of the urethra, which is nicked and sunk all along the superficies of the prostate, to which it adheres strongly, must be greatly compressed on all sides: hence a diminution, and frequently a total contraction, of the urinary passage, and consequently a difficulty or a total suppression of urine. The different degrees of tumefaction in this gland forms the measure of the different obstructions which happen in this part of the urethra. These obstructions are very frequent, as daily experience must have convinced those whose practice in the art of healing has made them

conversant with the disorders of the urethra. Perhaps it will not be so easy to determine whether, independently of the swelling of the prostate gland, obstructions may be formed in the first part of the urethra by spungy carnosities; but the first principles of anatomy preclude the possibility of such obstructions. We have demonstrative evidence, that this tube, as it lies along the prostate gland, is a single membranous one, containing no spungy substance in its volume; and it is equally evident, that no carnosities can arise where no spungy substance exists: it is, therefore, natural to conclude, that obstructions of the urethra, formed near the neck of the bladder, which are frequently mistaken for real carnosities, are produced by a tumour of the prostate gland, or the distension of the larger part of the verumontanum, which I have reason to believe very susceptible of this effect. I have often found in that part of the urethra, where it is situated, obstructions attended with a contraction of the tube, from thence to the neck of the bladder. I have also ob-

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served,

served, in all of the patients I have attended, that this part of the canal was more sensible of pain than any other. It is very certain, that if the acrimonious matter, which now and then invests the prostate, is not drawn off by the local application of the medicated sound, it will, in time become schirrous. To be convinced whether it be in this state or not, nothing more is necessary but to insert the fore-finger, moistened with oil, into the anus, in a direction towards the neck of the bladder, near which this gland is situated. But I can tell now, equally well by the feel with the sound, the schirrous tumour of the prostate occasions a contraction in the upper part of the urethra, which increases by degrees, and in proportion to the different stages of the swelling. A very important remark to be made here, is, that the prostate, as it grows larger, changes the direction of the neck of the bladder, which lies beyond this unsurmountable obstacle, and lower than its natural situation. No application, no instrument can now facilitate the flow of urine, and the patient must ine-

vitably perish, unless one chirurgical operation, or forlorne hope, is successful, which can alone prevent these fatal consequences. Nothing but repeated experience can enable the practitioner to distinguish truly between a perfect and an incomplete schirrous of the prostate gland: there is sometimes no cure for the former; but the latter I have had several cases within these last two years, that were restored to their pristine healthy state, by the application of the attracting medicated sound. Schirrous concretions of the prostate are not always the effects of venereal complaints. I have attended patients who have laboured under a hardness of this gland, without ever having been troubled with the venereal disease; such were, in a great measure, unmanned, and deprived of the power of procreation till they were cured; for it ought to be observed, that this gland is the main spring of ejecting the seminal liquor, and I am well convinced, often the cause of impotency in man. The schirrous prostate is, no doubt, frequently produced and aggravated by the venereal virus. It is very
often

often the consequence of a venereal cause, complicated with a scrophulous humour.

These different causes require great attention and sagacity in a professor of the healing art, who will otherwise be betrayed into the most fatal errors.

Ulcers of the prostate gland form another disease, with which it behoves us to be well acquainted, and which has often occurred in the course of my practice: Anatomy teaches us, that this gland, from its situation, when ulcerated, will obstruct the passage of the urine in the upper part of the canal; and that the morbid matter, if not drawn off, will be productive of the most alarming accidents on the surrounding parts. Ulcers in the prostate, like other disorders, may be produced by very different causes, which sometimes are, but not always venereal.

The most serious reflections on obstructions of the urethra, arising from the vi-
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tiated state of the corresponding glands, are the more necessary, as they may help us to discover the cause and the seat of other diseases, either of that tube or bladder, which we shall, in vain, attempt to cure, unless we know exactly where the evil lies.

C H A P. V.

Of the Vascular Obstructions of the Urinary Tube.

IN the enumeration of the different obstructions of the urethra, by authors who have, heretofore, written upon that subject, I have often wondered at their having either totally omitted, or treated very superficially, of the vascular obstructions of that tube. I am well convinced of these being frequently the causes of these obstructions, if I may trust either to my own experience in surgery, or to the repeated information I have received by the inspection of the urethra of patients after death. This theory, thus grounded on experience, will appear the more probable, when we reflect, that the membrane which lines the inside of this tube is intersected by a thousand capillary blood-vessels, of which the little arteries are supplied by the hypogastric arteries, and the small veins by those of the same

same denomination; that this last division of arteries and veins in the spongy substance of the urethra, and in the membranous envelopment, is not visible to our eye, which can discern nothing more in the internal membrane, than a very curious collection of small vessels, which are never more apparent than when the membrane is inflamed; that the inflammatory state of it adds to its sensibility; that it necessarily occasions a dilatation of the blood-vessels, particularly of the little arteries, beyond what is natural to them; that in other circumstances the little veins are distended and swelled; and that, in either of these cases, the cavity of the urethra must be contracted: whence arise those complaints which are injudiciously attributed to real carnosities. Vascular obstructions of the urinary tube are, then, the effects of an unnatural dilatation of the little arteries, or veins, which convey the fluids along the internal membrane of that passage, and can be attributed to no other cause. If the veins be dilated, and soft, livid, indolent, knotty tumours ensue; if the
 blood

blood be deprived of its usual free course through the little arteries, while its velocity is accelerated, and its heat increased, some part or other of the urethra will be inflamed; a considerable debility or weakness in the texture of the coats of the veins of the membrane, which lines the urethra, their unnatural dilatation, a thickness or obstructed circulation of blood, which blocks up the vessels; but above all, precedent claps, injudiciously managed, often causes the veins to be swelled of the urinary tube. These tumours, as the project, more or less, will, in the same degree, obstruct the urinary passage: they commonly arise in the neighbourhood of the neck of the bladder, which must be owing to that knot of veins which covers the upper convexity of the first part of the urethra, which is sunk along the prostate gland. These swellings sometimes run and yield blood: far from adding to the sensibility of the urethra, they diminish and blunt it. Hence the patient suffers, almost without pain, the application of a bougie.

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These tumours are easily sunk by compression; but then they soon rise again, if not digested away, and bring on the same disorder, the same retention of urine, and the attending symptoms.

Though the general causes of inflammatory obstructions may produce the second species of vascular diseases, it is however certain, that, generally speaking, they are the consequences of spasmodic contractions of the urethra, which, by a forcible impression on the fibres of the internal membrane, stop the blood in the extremities of the arteries, and thus bring on an inflammation in some one or more parts of the tube. This inflammation chiefly attacks the upper part of the urethra, near the neck of the bladder, and consequently adjoining to the verumontanum.

A difficulty of making water, the stranguary, and sometimes a retention urine, are the symptoms of this inflammatory obstruction of the urethra. The surest method of
discovery

discovery is to introduce the sound, which, when it reaches to the part that is inflamed, is not stopped, as it would be, by a swelling of the prostate, or of the verumontanum, but is only contracted, and forcibly compressed in its passage towards the neck of the bladder, where it occasions a sharp pain. This observation is not the result of theory, or an hypothesis proceeding from a heated imagination, but is grounded on a long experience. The vascular and phlogistic obstructions of the internal membrane of the upper end of the urethra seldom comes alone, but is generally attended either with a spasmodic contraction of the phlogistic part of the canal, or with a swelling of the prostate, or a tumefaction of the verumontanum, or eschars of old ulcers, or some venereal running, or fibrous excrescences that cross the passage, or other heterogeneous bodies, which give, more or less, obstruction to the flow of urine. Convinced that the best proofs to convey solid knowledge, in this branch of the profession, is the dissection of bodies after death, who, in their
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life-time, laboured under those diseases: I have, on every opportunity, had recourse to this source of instruction.

On these occasions I have observed, that in patients who had long laboured under obstructions of the verumontanum, and the upper part of the urethra, this part of the tube, up to the neck of the bladder, was much contracted, red, and bearing every other mark of an antecedent inflammation. What more demonstrative proof can be desired of the truth of what is here advanced.

C H A P. VI.

Of Obstructions of the Urethra, arising from the Edges of Ulcers and Eschars.

PERHAPS nothing has gone through more variation than the opinion of authors concerning the formation of obstructions in the urethra. Their different hypotheses lead alike into this error, that there is but one cause and one species of obstruction; than which nothing is more false. I once knew a surgeon of distinguished abilities at Florence, who advanced in his anatomical lectures, that the verumontanum was the only seat of carnosities, and that these are but so many ulcers of that part, the inflated edges of which contracted the urinary passage. We must allow, that it is as true that ulcers are sometimes formed in the urethra, as it is false, that all carnosities, all obstructions of that tube, are owing to ulcers.

The edges of ulcers in the urethra are either smooth and flat, or swelled, or cal-

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lous. In the two last cases it is evident, that the edges raised above the internal membrane of the tube contract its cavity, and obstruct the passage of the urine; an obstruction the more alarming, as the sharp virulent humour, flowing from the ulcers, continually irritates the internal membrane of the tube, and brings on a contraction.

Old and callous eschars, seated in the urethra, likewise produce obstructions, either by the size of them, or by a kind of contraction, which constantly happens to the fibres which lie near to the parts, especially if they are tendinous, aponeurotic, or membranous. It would be very easy for me to give a folio work to the world, in lieu of this brief treatise upon these subjects, were I to enter into an accurate discussion of these complaints:—But since ever I formed a resolution of judging for myself, I have been of opinion, that such prolix and voluminous accounts, instead of conveying a clear idea to the readers, serves often to puzzle and confound.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

On Obstructions of the Urethra, owing to Fibrous Excrescences and Membranous Doublings formed in that Tube.

THE internal surface of the urethra, which, in its natural state, is smooth and equal, is sometimes rendered rough and unequal by morbid habits. This inequality of surface may be produced by other causes, besides carnosities and tumours, of which an account has been given in a preceding Chapter ; such as certain doublings of the internal membrane of the urethra, or certain fibrous excrescences, which arise on one side, traverse the cavity, and end in the opposite sides of the tube. On the dissection of dead bodies, I have often found the internal membrane of the urethra doubled down in such a manner, as to form a perfect resemblance of the valvulæ that are found in the veins.

Mr. Sharp, in his critical researches into the present state of Surgery, informs us, that he found, in the urethra of a dead body, near the verumontanum, a filament which crossed that tube, and had prevented the instrument from penetrating, and thus brought on a retention of urine, which proved mortal. In another he informs us, that he found, besides the contraction of the passage, a little excrescence, which resembled one of the tricuspidal valvulæ of the heart.

The observations of this distinguished character, joined to these French surgeons, Mons. Le Dran and the Chevalier Gerrard, not less eminent, together with my own, afford a demonstrative proof of the existence of this singular species of obstruction of the urethra, which may prevent the excretion of urine, and the introduction of an instrument in a retention of that fluid *.

* Such a remedy as the attracting medicated sound, mentioned in Chap. III. Sect. I. was much wanted in Surgery; the more so, as most of the disorders, in which
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it is now applied, were either totally incurable before, or relieved with the greatest difficulty. Till this discovery was made, most books of Surgery represented these complaints as forlorn hopes, and indeed with great reason, for the hard bougies and probes, the best method then in use, only flattened the carnosities, but did not remove them. Thus the cause subsisted. But the medicine the Chevalier, recommends removes carnosities by resolution, without occasioning any pain. A tumour of the prostate gland is one of the most critical and dangerous complaints of the urethra; the cure generally depends on the state of the liquor contained in the vessels of this gland. The cause of this complaint is not always venereal: but when the levan is of a malignant nature, the application of the attracting medicated sound soon changes the state of this gland; and it is astonishing to behold the point of the sound coming out of the urethra, loaded with the virulent discharge from the gland, in the space of a short time. This acrimonious matter is the cause of innumerable evils, habitual stranguary, disury, and ischury, rendering life miserable.

Of the variety of complaints, to which those are exposed, who have had repeated and long continued venereal discharges from the urethra, there is not one more to be dreaded than an habitual stranguary. The imminent danger of an entire retention of urine, that constantly attends this disease, the frequent desire the patient feels, and the painful endeavours he is obliged to

exert, in order to expel his urine, render life as precarious as it must be miserable.

It seldom happens that this disease immediately succeeds an injudiciously treated gonorrhœa: it more frequently occurs, that the patient feels no pressing symptoms of this complaint for a long time. I have had many gentlemen apply to me for advice, who did not complain till some years had elapsed. Besides, there are very few so attentive in making water, as to take notice of, or be any way alarmed, although they should not urine in as full a stream as they were used to do; so that the disease is of some time standing before the patient finds any inconvenience from it, or applies for advice; which he generally does not, until, from the progress of this complaint, he perceives that he is both a longer time, more frequently solicited, and obliged to use greater efforts in making water than usual. The least irregularity brings it on, and the least quantity of some kind of liquors as well as solids in common food, flies, as it were, to the part affected, like an electrical shock, and stimulates the bladder. Such is the state of the much to be lamented miserable sufferer.

C H A P. VIII.

Of the Venereal Abscess in the Groin, commonly called the Buboe.

THIS abscess not unfrequently arises from the running of a gonorrhœa being too suddenly stopped, particularly where the glans or prepuce are ulcerated: it is rarely the first symptom of a venereal infection. Those buboes that arise soon after the first appearance of the infection, particularly if the patient be young, and otherwise healthy, are generally of the inflammatory kind, and determine soon to suppuration; but those that arise at the latter end of the disease, or in some time after a cure has been apparently effected; if the patient be of a cold inert habit of body, we find those buboes generally attended with little pain, but appear cold and indolent, and are the most difficult to suppurate or resolve.

In whatever light we consider these abscesses, either as proceeding from the absorption of venereal matter, from some virulent ulcers round the glans, which is a frequent occurrence, or from a premature suppression of a venereal running, in every event the speedy expulsion of the poison ought to be our grand object. Sometimes these abscesses attack the patient almost immediately after impure coition; it is the lymphatic glands of the groin which become diseased, and I have frequently known them, in the course of my practice, to seize the glands of both groins at the same time. The cause of this disagreeable abscess or tumour is owing to a stagnation of the lymph, which is conveyed to the inguinal glands from the neighbouring parts, as into a common reservoir, and ought to flow through their cells or vesicles, in order to be carried off again; hence that acute pain with which the patient is attacked. Openings made into these abscesses may always be avoided, if timely application is made to a practitioner who is master of his profession;

fion; and indeed I never approved of exposing the lymphatic glands to the atmosphere, from the evil consequences I have so often known to arise, even where the matter is in some degree formed; the mode now in practice amongst the French surgeons by transfusion through the pores of the skin, without either caustic or cutting, is by far most preferable and effectual, by which a painful operation is prevented; and no time should be lost in exhibiting proper internal remedies for the expulsion of the poison from the fluids of the patient.

C H A P. IX.

Of the Venereal Lues in general.

THE venereal disease is hereditary or adventitious: hereditary, when it is communicated by generation, the poison being transmitted by the parents, whilst the tender body of the embryo is formed; adventitious, when the distemper is transmitted from the person diseased to one that is sound: the first may be communicated to the foetus by either of the parents, father or mother; by the father, as the seminal particles falling from him, and fraught with the venereal venum, may infect the embryo, which they inclose, with the like disorder; and from the mother, as at the same time that she supplies the foetus with nourishment during her pregnancy, she must convey into it the seed of the distemper she labours under: the second, by coition, either when a sound woman cohabits with an infected

fectcd man, who may have chancres on the glans, or a gonorrhœa of a virulent species, or whose seed is tainted with the venereal poison, although he may have no external mark of the disorder whereby to draw a criterion. But the patient's own internal feelings, when represented to the experienced practitioner, will be the surest guide to go by.

Also, when a sound man lies with an unsound woman, whose private parts are eroded with the virus, or contaminated with the poison, or where there is a discharge of vaginal matter, abounding with the venereal venom. In the first of these cases, the purulent matter which flows from the man, or the corrupted seed which is emitted in the venereal act, will adhere to the pudenda, the vagina, and perhaps the womb, and in a short time bring on the several symptoms of this disorder. In the other case, the glans of the penis, which is of itself a spongy substance, and at such a time dilated by an extraordinary tension, and more than usually rarified,

rarified, will more deeply imbibe the corruption issuing from the vagina, mixed with the glandular mucus discharged on the pudendum, whence arises the first infection. The prolific semen, which is elaborated in the testicles of men, and the other humours, which in man are prepared in the prostate glands, Cowper's glands, and the lacunæ of the urethra. In women, the glands of the vagina, what the anatomists of old called the Botriiform glands, claim the first and peculiar rank of affinity, and deservedly; for the infection which is first formed, from the contaminated semen, is very easily blended with the other fluids, to which it is so nearly related. Hence, in patients who labour under this complaint, the seminal fluids are always tainted by whatsoever way the infection was received, whether at the genitals by coition, at the breasts by giving milk, at the mouth by sucking or kissing, &c. From hence local affections of the genitals are so frequent in the confirmed lues: but besides this, the seminal fluids are very apt to be depraved
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by a certain peculiar tendency they have towards the contracting and imbibing this infection. We therefore know by experience, that this malady is chiefly propagated by coition and an infusion of the venereal matter, it follows, therefore, that we see so frequently this complaint communicated in the most sacred hymenial ties. To understand or form a clearer idea of this existing malady, let my readers observe, that the chyle extracted from our food, is converted into blood by fermentation, which, from thence, by a wonderful construction of the human machine, is converted into the other different humours of the body. Hence the blood, so long as it is pure, by reason of a well-disposed chyle, generates pure blood, and from pure blood produces pure humours, as in a second state; but when the blood is once contaminated with the venereal poison, (if immediate care is not taken to cleanse it) it cannot but communicate the like infection, both to the blood, which is generated from the chyle, and to all the humours which are secreted from

from it ;—and thus the poison, which perhaps at first was sparingly thrown in, is renewed and perpetuated.

It is my duty, however, to observe here, that the infection, which is communicated to the blood by the venereal poison, may vary in a three-fold degree and intention, according to the different quantity of the poison mixed with it, or remaining in it, or the different nature, quality, and disposition of the blood upon which it acts. It may daily increase and gradually gather strength, by the multiplication of the venereal poison. On the other hand, it may be diminished or extenuated, till the virus may disappear without the aid of a remedy ; but this may prove a sad delusion to the sufferer. Again, it may proceed in the middle way, and constantly retain the same state and measure, by the renewal indeed of the venereal poison, but without either increase or decrease.

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If the disease prevails and gathers strength, and from thence the poison, by a swift progress, is daily increased and multiplied, the whole mass of blood and humours will, in a short time, be corrupted, and a confirmed lues succeed; which arises from a three-fold cause, if the poison be large in quantity, sharp, and very virulent; if the blood, on which the poison acts, be by nature or accident depraved, and in a bad state; and which is worst of all, if these should all meet together.

If the disease daily loses ground, and is diminished, and by this means the contagion is lessened in strength and decreased in quantity, the poison will, by a slow and sure progress, in time, be quite dispersed to appearance, as in those who seem to recover of buboes, ulcers, and bad gonorrhœas, without radical remedies, or at least with precarious ones; yet they seem to enjoy a tolerable state of health while they live, which is no doubt curtailed by slow, but sure degrees. Unfortunately, it might have appeared to
have

have been conquered, through the happiness of a good constitution, especially if the poison was mild in its nature, and the blood well constituted and perfectly elaborated. If the disease is in the middle state, and thus the poison be continually renewed as it flies off, and always in the same degree in which it was in the beginning; so as by these means to be in a condition unable to produce any serious effect; then indeed the poison will be continually renewed as it flies off, and always in the same degree in which it was at the beginning, so as by these means to be in a condition unable to produce any baneful effect, then indeed the poison will continually be perpetuated, but under such restraints as not to shew itself; or which is the same thing, it will lie lurking in the blood, but in such a manner as to do no immediate mischief, as may be observed in common daily practice. But to this purpose it is requisite the poison, which is admitted or left behind, should be so proportionable in quantity and force, and that the blood should likewise keep such a tem-

per in quality, and the manner of its generation, as to permit a renewal of the poison; but such a renewal as is constantly the same, without addition or diminution; for otherwise, if the blood be vitiated by a fever, or any adventitious disease, if by errors in diet, immoderate watchfulness, intemperance of any kind, &c. then as the blood departs from its natural disposition, the before latent poison will presently gain ground, both in quantity and strength, and be restored to its natural fierceness, and like another Pandora's box being once opened, will bring on a terrible troop of grievous symptoms, which will end in a manifest lues. Thus it appears, that dormant venereal maladies are much the same as in the case of fruits growing wild in the woods, they are, in general, austere in our climes, but they will become milder and sweeter by culture; not that they lay aside the natural rough disposition of their juices, but because the juice, supplied by a cultivated soil, will so alter the natural juice of the tree, as to make the taste of the fruit more mild: but if the culture be again

laid aside, the fruit will soon return to its former austerity.

Hence, in the same manner, a small quantity of mild venereal poison may lie in the body, without prejudice, so long as pure blood shall prevent an increase of it, and be restored to its native ferocity and virulence as soon as, upon a depraved state of the blood, it shall gain an opportunity of doing mischief. A question now naturally arises, and must, of course, raise the curiosity of my readers—this is to know, whether a man, infected with those latent seeds of the distemper, can give the malady to a sound woman he may lie with; or whether, on the other hand, a woman so infected can give it to the man?

The professors of the healing art are divided in their sentiments on this point: Some have maintained what others have denied; but as the opponents on either side have been each of them sometimes favoured by experience, it is natural to conclude, that both

both opinions are equally true ; therefore the man, in whom the poison lies concealed, may, or may not, communicate the distemper, according to the different habit of body of the women he shall lie with ; and *vice versa*. There is, however, an observation I shall make in this place—that this malady may absolutely be contracted by a sound man lying with a sound woman—at first this will appear extraordinary to my readers—but if she has lately lain with an infected man, and not washed the parts since, it may happen, that some of the contaminated semen lately received may adhere to the vagina or womb, and may infect the glans of the man next lying with her, with a like disorder, as virulent matter emitted by women would do in case she was infected. The infection does not depend on one alone, but on two, the agent and patient, for both together contribute to it, according to the condition of the infected or communicating person, and of the sound or receipient ; hence it follows, that it is not to be considered in one alone, but in both : the man in whom

the poison lurks may infect a sound woman, if by nature or disposition, or manner of lurking of the subtle virus, she may be of such a temper and habit of body, that the force of it, which may be insufficient to produce any effect in the blood of the infected man, may yet be capable of corrupting the blood of the woman, but cannot infect her, if she is of a robust and healthful constitution, and so able to escape the force of the poison received by coition, which therefore will fail in its effect in her, as well as it has done in the man; but upon any change in her health and constitution, it may shew itself.

It may sometimes be observed, that where several children are born of the same parents, that one or other of them shall be more subject than the rest to strumous or ricketty disorders, which I have often known to arise from venereal infection lurking in their parents; and this shews us, that from the natural constitution of their bodies, or the disease their mother laboured under whilst

whilst she was with child, they were weaker than the rest, and so more deeply infected with the contagion; in like manner may be reasoned of all other appearances, which are wont to shew themselves in the propagation of this malady.

It would swell this work to too great bounds, were I to give a detail of the various opinions of the different preparations made use of, to re-establish the health of patients labouring under these maladies, and their variety of species.—I shall only offer what I have found, on the most attentive observation, the most effectual method of curing them. This is a decoction of the grey nicker, commonly called the Montpellier Apozem, endowed with the most powerful sweetning quality, and the patients are under no restraint whatever during its exhibition. An extract is now prepared from it possessing the same virtue. The superior degree of penetrability (if I may be allowed the expression) which this medicine possesses, and its action being chiefly determined to

evacuate the virus by some of the outlets of the body, may be the reason why it is found so powerful a resource in all cases where the fluids are tainted with acrimonious matter, in ever so great or small a degree. The grand advantage of it is, that it may be given to patients, male or female, of the most delicate frames, or even children of tender age, or in those whose nervous system is excessively irritable—for it is well known that such will not bear mercury, even although it be ever so prudently administered. In patients, particularly women, who often labour under a debility of the nervous system, a mercurial course is extremely hazardous. Hence, when those complaints arise in families, the more secret and more safely they are got rid of, the happier it must make the parties.

C H A P. X.

*Of those Maladies, not unfrequently arising
from Venereal Causes.*

IT has long been a received opinion, that every species of the venereal disease is to be cured by mercury: and the practitioners of old, as well as some of the moderns, continues to tread the beaten path, to the no small detriment sometimes of the unfortunate sufferer. The minds of men grown old in any way of thinking, are like heavy bodies on the surface of the earth, which, by long lying, have sunk into the ground, and formed to themselves a bed, from which they cannot be easily removed, even with very great strength; there is a kind of vis inertiae of soul as well as body. Novelty, though it be true and convincing to them, may yet be displeasing, because it puts them in mind of their having been wrong all their lives. It is well known, that very import-

ant discoveries, like rich mines, have lain long unattended to, slighted, or misunderstood, and yet have been afterwards universally adopted, and brought into philosophy and use.

Though mercury is a very useful mineral, it does not follow, that all the symptoms brought on by the venereal contagion are always cured by it. Besides, there are several medicines in the hands of an ignorant man become poison, whilst, in the hands of the skilful and experienced practitioner, must be allowed most excellent and useful in their effects; such are, opium, antimony, and some preparations of mercury, &c. and many others, are, in some sense, allowed to be poisonous; pernicious, even when given in no great quantities, as well to the fluid as to the solid parts of an human body; and given in greater quantities very often fatal: and unless some of the most dangerous of them are duly prepared for use by an experienced artist, and administered in proper doses by a skilful practitioner, the *Materia Medica*

Medica would be very deficient, and we should be at a loss to remedy two parts perhaps in three, as well of chronical, as of acute diseases.

I have, in the course of a long practice, seen numbers of instances where mercury has been thrown into the body copiously by friction, and at other times taken by the mouth, sometimes to occasion a salivation or spitting (which was cruel and absurd). The symptoms yielded to the power of this medicine for the present, and the patient supposed to be cured—But I have known very serious maladies to arise afterwards, which mercury, instead of doing any good, would inevitably destroy the sufferer. Fistula in ano, rheumatic pains, tetters, stubborn ulcers, hectic coughs, caries of the bones, scurvy, scrophulous disorders, &c. sometimes will attack the patient many years afterwards.

The blood and other humours, whilst they suffer attrition from the mercury, will
often

often contract an acrimony, and sometimes of a serious nature, worse than the malady from whence it arose. Rheumatic pains, produced by the venereal poison, very often remain after the infection is removed, and are caused by the acrimony which the blood has contracted from its mixture with the venereal poison; whence the lymph, which is distributed to the tendinous and fibrous parts of the body becomes more salt and acrimonious; or by the too great viscosity of the lymph, which circulates slower through the small vessels, and is more apt to form other obstructions, or by the relaxation and weakness that is brought upon the fibrous, ligamentary, tendinous and muscular parts, and by the frequent shocks they have received, by which means they yield the easier to an entire stagnation of the salt and acrimonious lymph. In order, therefore, to remove those symptoms, not unfrequently arising from venereal complaints after a copious exhibition of mercurials, it becomes absolutely necessary, first to restore the solid parts to their natural tone,

tone, and to correct the existing acrimony in the fluids—this must be done before ever the patient can expect to enjoy the invaluable blessing of health.

CHAP.

C H A P. XI.

*Of the Treatment of Women with Child,
Nurses, and Infants.*

IF any venereal patients claim our attention, women with child, nurses, and infants, most certainly do in the highest degree. The importance of the subject, and the frequent opportunities I have had of investigating it, have induced me to make a separate Chapter of it. The state of pregnancy has often proved a stumbling block to practitioners: many have been of opinion, that the cure must be deferred till the patient is brought to bed. But this argument arises for want of reflection; though we might acquiesce in this way of thinking, were we to consider the mother only, and not pay a proper regard to her fruit. It is most certain, that the situation of a venereal patient with child, very little agrees with the common mode of cure, by charg-
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ing the pregnant female with mercury, either by rubbing it on the legs, thighs, &c. or taken into the stomach. It is no wonder that the old practitioners wished to defer it—but by so doing, we run a risk of not only losing the child, but likewise of the mother's miscarrying; a circumstance often attended with great danger. These considerations, I should think, are sufficient to induce us to act with great circumspection, and to adopt the mildest and most effectual mode of treatment. * It is upon this principle, founded upon experience, that I have regulated my conduct in the treatment of venereal patients with child.

In the year 1777, when the British army lay in Philadelphia, and I need not remark, that wherever there are great numbers of

* Besides the danger of a miscarriage, a venereal patient with child is liable to suffer by the death of the fœtus, half rotten. I have seen women in this situation in great danger during their delivery. Besides, if the child lives, and should be given out to nurse, law-suits have been grounded upon such occasions.

soldiers

soldiers and sailors, venereal maladies are generally pretty frequent. I happened to be quartered at the house of a respectable citizen, who, after having come off a journey, communicated this complaint to his wife, who gave it to three children and a servant maid. Unfortunately, the wife was with child, and giving suck at the same time to a child twenty months old, who likewise had caught the infection, she and her husband were anxious to know whether it would be necessary to defer the cure till she was delivered. I was of opinion it should be undertaken immediately. Thus the mother and child were radically cured; and five months after she was brought to bed of a healthy fine boy. I have known many instances where it became absolutely necessary to use great exertions towards a cure, in order to assist labour, which would otherwise be very difficult, and perhaps impracticable — especially where considerable obstructions are in the vagina, occasioned by a venereal taint, schirrous tumours, callosities, and a considerable tumefaction of the genitals,

tals, &c. Mons. Deydier, Professor of Physic and Surgery in the university of Montpellier, had a case of this kind of a very singular nature, to which I was an eye-witness, through the politeness of that able practitioner. The patient was about twenty-eight years of age, six months gone with child, who was afraid of losing her life in her lying-in, on account of a considerable tumefaction of the genitals, where I perceived a number of venereal ulcers, which had formed a swelling at the labia as large as one's two fists. The labia were drawn so close together, that it was impossible to separate them, and she suffered great pain in other respects. Mons. Deydier made a perfect cure of his patient by his mild method, without any mercurial friction, or any sensible evacuation supervening. She was brought to bed three weeks after of a girl, who was healthy, and continued so while I remained at Montpellier. I have had three cases very similar under my own care, within these last four years. When female patients are not managed with great caution under these

these complaints, even their most simple species, diseases of another class are very apt to attack them. I have known oppressions, melancholy, with great thoughtfulness, loss of appetite, decay of strength, &c. shake the constitution of perhaps the delicate sufferer. The whites, in such conditions, will commonly intervene, and flowing in great quantity, may bring on a soft and bloated habit of body, a swarthy and pale countenance, with not unfrequently hysterical fits, a remarkable lassitude and weariness of the body, and a decay of strength, all which symptoms, in general, proceed from a dispirited blood, and the habit of body I have often seen œdematous, from the waterish disposition of it. I have often been consulted, even where the symptoms did not stop here, but in progress of time, which had been wasted under the hands of the ignorant. The disease had become in a manner confirmed, bringing on a hectic disposition, atrophy, and a wasting of the flesh, till at length the body is plainly brought to the highest degree of a consumption,

imagining that the milk, being impregnated with the remedy, is capable of curing the child. This is particularly observed by the illustrious Hildanus, and many other professors of distinguished abilities in the art of healing, and leaves little room to doubt but it may be sufficient; but in order to be more secure.—I order a proportionate quantity of the same remedy for the child, which is a method I have adopted these many years, and have always found to answer my expectations. With regard to children who are weaned, and have the venereal taint, either from their parents or nurses, they ought to be treated before the malady has taken deep root, but with all the attention their tender age and reduced state may require. If this is not attended to at a proper time, as they grow up the malady may become incurable *.—But it is impossible to lay down rules for every case—it must be left to the judgment of the practitioner.

* Vide a case of this kind of a very singular nature, in the 5th edition of this work, page 82.

C H A P. XII.

On the Impotency of Man.

IM POTENCY in men is brought on frequently in consequence of several kinds of disorders; they must be treated according to their several species: when, therefore, we can tell the occasion and particulars of this unfortunate complaint, we can, with greater certainty, recommend proper remedies.

Imbecillity I have often known to arise from disorders of the seminary vessels themselves; but the most frequent cause which has occurred to me in the course of a series of years practice, is in the prostate gland. When this gland is in the least diseased, the venereal act can never be performed well, and procreation will then cease on the part of the male. Sometimes the cause is in the muscoli erectores, or acceleratores, by

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whose

whose assistance the penis acquires its rigidity and tension, as when they are weak and relaxed, and wholly unfit for the office of erection; with which disorders it is no uncommon thing for the feminary vessels and muscles that perform the office of erection to be affected from a venereal cause. This kind of impotency will not yield to any treatment but antivenereal. I have also, in the course of my practice, observed impotency of another nature—the patients have laboured under gleets for a length of time—others have had a discharge of the seed sooner than usual, with very little sense of pleasure, and before the erection could be perfected.

This impotency arises from the too great wideness of the ducts and their openings into the urethra, whereby the semen was too easily and readily discharged through them before the work was perfected, which wideness or relaxation has often been occasioned by old gonorrhœas, neglected or unskilfully managed. Patients in this condition

tion soon recover, when the relaxed excretory ducts are restored to their pristine state.

The fourth and last cause proceeds not unfrequently from the state of mind of the patient, and which may be cured without the aid of any internal medicine.

OBSERVATION XLIX.

*Spitting of Blood, Ulcers in the Throat,
with Palpitations of the Heart.*

A YOUNG Gentleman of the regiment to which I was surgeon, in his first essay, got a small ulcer under the frenum. He was upon the recruiting service upwards of one hundred miles from head quarters. He applied immediately to a physician in the neighbourhood, and for two months took a variety of mercurials, without having any effect on the ulcer. Calcined mercury and the sarsaparilla decoction was what was chiefly used for upwards of two months. His physician finding the disease did not give way, and his patient getting weak, desired more advice to be called in. His friends wrote to the commanding officer, requesting I might be sent to attend him. I found his tonsils also much affected with virus, and he seemed a bad subject for mer-

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cury;

cury. His physician was a man of abilities, and had done his duty. We continued both to attend him near three months. In those days mercurial friction was the fashion, unacquainted with a better mode; I accordingly, after a previous preparation, advised a drachm to be used every second night, and continued them for twelve days: perceiving he bore it, I ordered a drachm and an half. Notwithstanding this, neither the small ulcer nor tonsils grew better; the latter were very large, and the clefts full of matter, which I took out from time to time. After eight weeks, all the progress we made was, that the tonsils became less: and the last fortnight he took three half-pints a day of the sarsaparilla decoction and bark, with a few drops of Huxham's antimonial in each draught. I now began to be surprized, when I observed, that the night after rubbing, the ulcer and tonsils were remarkably worse. I now proposed to my colleague to leave off mercury entirely, which we agreed to. After which the little ulcer healed in the space of a week,

with only the application of a little dry lint, and his tonsils grew gradually better : they remained enlarged for some time, but when he was restored to his flesh and strength all venereal appearances vanished. I am well-assured, that if mercury had been continued in this case, with a view of having his complaints subdued, he would have perished under the treatment.

OBSERVATION L.

Copper-coloured Spots on the Body, with a hectic Cough and nervous Fever.

AN Officer of the same regiment having consulted a physician for a complaint which he had laboured under several years : it was a number of copper-coloured eruptions on his breast and various parts of his body, accompanied with a short cough and fever, for which he was ordered some mercurial pills : they consisted principally of calomel joined with opium, about three grains of the former and one of the latter. After

he had taken one every night for six nights, on the seventh day he was in a complete salivation—his tongue was swelled for many weeks, and for a long time he was obliged to be fed with soft spoon meat. Some days, he told me, he used to spit two quarts a day; was emaciated, and melted down to a skeleton. Notwithstanding all this severe discipline, his complaints still remained, and some were much worse. Hence the absurdity of salivation, and not unfrequently the inefficacy of mercury, even when prudently administered.

This gentleman, after his recovery from the salivation, was cured of all his venereal symptoms, by the use of antimonial alteratives, under my own care and direction.

OBSERVATION LI.

*A Species of the Lues commonly called the
Yaws.*

WHEN I was in America, I met with a British merchant, who had lately arrived from Martinico, where he had been a prisoner with the French. He employed me to attend him for a few pustular and leprous eruptions in different parts of his body; he had a small abscess in each arm-pit, and some small warts about the anus; his genitals were free from any symptom, but his hands and feet were considerably swollen with large fissures, from whence issued a very stinking ichorous matter. I put him immediately under a course of mercurials, which was continued five weeks; but instead of gaining ground on the disorder, he absolutely got worse; the eruptions became now running sores, and did not seem the least disposed to heal up, but continued to
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vent a vast deal of stinking sanious matter—a large tumour formed on his rump, which discharged the same kind of virulent matter. His body now became covered with scales, which grew so hard and stiff, that he could scarce bend a limb or finger. Two fresh tumours again started up, one on his right breast and another on his left, voiding prodigious quantities of the same kind of matter. I observed, in this gentleman's case, that wherever any of these ulcers appeared, they ran only under the skin, being entirely seated in and feeding on the adipose membrane (which coincides with the opinion of Professor Boerhaave, about the seat of this disease); the muscles and tendons underneath appeared fair and florid. I found there was nothing to be done by mercury in any form, and fortunately, at this crisis, I was made acquainted with the virtues of the grey nicker, of which he began to drink a decoction, first having recourse to a warm emollient bath, in which his whole body was immersed. This wonderful vegetable ran the disease off by insensible perspiration,

tion, urine, and stool, and acted the most powerful alterative I ever beheld in my life. A most plentiful dilution was kept up—attempting withal to detach the scaly cuticle by continued emollient baths. By this means the scales came off apace, just in the manner usual in the confluent small-pox, only much larger, several being above four or five inches over. In a fortnight he got rid of his coat of mail—but he was much emaciated—but by a nourishing diet, and continuing his remedy, he daily acquired both strength and spirits, till every symptom disappeared, and his health, in every respect, perfectly re-established.

OBSERVATION LII.

Fatal Consumption after a Mercurial Course.

WHEN I was at New-York, I was called to visit a young gentleman of Jamaica, about twenty-four years of age, who was under a salivation—his complaints were

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two or three chancres on his penis, and an ulcer in the left tonsil. His physician ordered him strong mercurial frictions for thirty nights—he was at this time spitting three or four pints a day.

His chancres healed up, and his throat got well: but it proved an unfortunate business, for the young gentleman, who came to me about six months after, to consult me for a hawking cough and low fever. I was really much affected—for as soon as I examined him I saw his situation—he had evident symptoms of a consumption. I advised him to repair immediately to his native clime, where he lived much longer than he would have done in North America, being upwards of two years.

O B S E R V A T I O N L I I I .

*Venereal Ulcers, with a general Consumption
of the whole Body.*

AN able-bodied man, of the fifth regiment of Infantry, lay for some nights with a girl, who recently came out of a salivation. In some days after he came to the hospital for advice. I found the inside of his mouth all speckled over with small ulcers, which caused as complete a salivation as I ever saw. I was farther amazed, when he told me, that he sweat so profusely in the night, as to wet through his bed-cloths. In the course of three weeks he was worn down, from a strong robust man to a skeleton. His fore teeth dropped out; he broke out all over with venereal pustules, and the cornea of his right eye became vastly thickened. He had been, and still was, when he could get it, a very hard drinker, and subject besides to scorbutic eruptions.

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In the beginning he had the bark plentifully, with an opiate at night, strong gargles of the sarsaparilla, with a small portion of sublimite. His sweats and spitting diminished; but he was so much exhausted, I judged it most prudent to liberate him entirely out of the hospital for the benefit of fresh air; he then wandered about the fields and among the the farm-houses, procuring abundance of milk, which was his chief food. In about a month he had acquired more strength; but the pustules which covered his face now became ulcers, attended with pains in his limbs. The cornea of his eye, which was thickened, seemed now to have matter formed behind it. He was soon put under a course of the Montpelier Apozem. His spitting subsided in the space of a fortnight, and he began to eat solid food. In seven weeks he was perfectly cured. This man was raised from a state of general putrifaction to health and vigour.

OBSERVATION LIV.

*Dropfical Complaints, fupposed to arife from
a Venereal Cause.*

THE wife of a Serjeant of the fifth regiment came to the hospital big with the ascites, or dropfy. Her husband had died some time before of a pockey hectic; she herself, before this time, had been treated for venereal complaints. Her belly was very big, and the naval much inflamed; I purposed tapping her next morning, but during the night it burst, and discharged a great quantity of water: however, as there was much remaining I tapped her, and discharged eight quarts of water; it was very foul, and seemed as if there were fœces mixed among it. The next day she was seized with a purging, which resembled the water discharged by tapping, attended with severe gripes. She had several doses of rheubarb from time to time. The purging subsided,

subsided, and she gained strength. I then put her under a course of alteratives, by which means all her dropfical complaints were removed, and she was perfectly cured.

OBSERVATION LV.

*A large Abscess on the Verge of the Anus,
with Venereal Warts, &c.*

A YOUNG Gentleman contracted a gonorrhœa, for which I believe he went under no regular treatment——about four months after he came to town for my advice. When I visited him, he shewed me an abscess that was forming on the verge of the anus: before it appeared, he told me that he had a swelling in his groin, which went back; when the abscess became full of matter it was drawn off, and I found the rectum thin and bare; every thing went on well. As there was a strong presumption that this was the baneful consequence of a bad-managed clap, he was put immediately under a course of the Montpelier Apozem—In

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about six weeks the abscess was healed ; he now shewed me, for the first time, three or four warts behind the nut of the penis ; they were soon dissolved by the metallic solution ; but he still continued taking the remedy for six weeks longer, by way of security. His health was now perfectly re-established in every respect, and he returned to his seat in the country, where he soon recovered his former habit of body.

OBSERVATION LVI.

*Warts upon the Glans Penis, after a
Gonorrhœa.*

A COUNTRY Gentleman came to town to consult me. He observed, that after having been apparently cured of a gonorrhœa, about three months after a number of warts broke out on the glans and behind it ; he went from one practitioner to another in the country, and took a variety of mercurials, without any alteration for the better ; and when taken down by caustic,
which

which produced but a temporary effect, they soon sprung up afresh. He had now been for three years diseased, and never had any other venereal appearance. His constitution was much affected by the great quantity of mercury he had taken, but it had no effect upon his disease, which was, no doubt, the venereal lues. I recommended him the Montpelier Apozem, which he took regularly for about two months under my own care and direction; by which the warts were soon destroyed, and the ill effects of the mercury, which he had been taking for so long a time, were entirely washed away from his constitution, and his general health happily and perfectly re-established.

O B S E R V A T I O N LVII.

A Lady infected, although her Husband had no external Appearance of any venereal Complaint.

A LADY, whose husband had been six years absent from her, a few weeks after his

return home, she began to complain of a forenefs about the labia, which daily increafed. In three months after ſhe applied to me for advice, when ſhe was ſcarcely able to walk. I found the entire labia covered with venereal chancres; yet her huſband had not the leaſt ſymptom of this complaint, to appearance, externally, although, during great part of the time, he had frequent connection with her, and ſhe conceived. On recollection, he told me he had ſome ſlight ulcers about two years before on the glans, which were ſoon cured, and he never had any complaint after. However, as he had gone under no regular treatment for them, I was of opinion, that he infected his wife, notwithstanding his having no external appearance. They both began immediately a courſe of remedies—She was perfectly cured in the ſpace of two months; and her huſband took the Montpellier Apozem a conſiderable time, for his greater ſecurity and happineſs of his mind.

O B S E R V A T I O N LVIII.

*Fluor Albus, with Eruptions on the Breast,
and intermitting Head-Achs.*

A LADY who had taken a large quantity of mercury by the advice of a physician, with a view to cure her of some eruptions on her breast, which he supposed to be venereal, applied to me for advice. I found her much relaxed, with a very fallow tinge (though her complexion was naturally of the fairest kind). She had a slight fever on her every night. Her constitution seemed much affected, from the quantity of mercury she had taken; but the eruptions were still stationary. I recommended her the Montpellier preparation, which she continued near two months. The eruptions on her breast vanished, the skin resuming its natural colour—Her head-ach and fever entirely left her, the fluor albus disappeared, and her general health, which had so long suffered, was perfectly re-established.

OBSERVATION LIX.

Eruptions, with glandular Swellings of the Neck of the scrophulous Kind.

A YOUNG Lady, about fourteen years of age, had been afflicted with scaly eruptions for several years; they disfigured her neck and breast. I could hardly help thinking that there was a mixture of venereal along with it, for I found that her father had formerly been afflicted with similar eruptions on the breast, hands, legs, &c. from which a glossy moisture oozed forth, and growing dry, gradually hardened into thick incrustations. I advised a course of the Montpelier Apozem for the young Lady, and also for her father, which was continued for a considerable time after their cure was completed, by way of greater security.

OBSERVATION LX.

Schirrous Tumour of the Testicle.

A COUNTRY Gentleman was recommended to me with a hard schirrous tumour of his testicle, about the size of a hen's egg, which had been concluded to be venereal, as it came without any external injury. He had lived very free for some time before. He had rubbed near one pound of the mercurial ointment into his thighs and legs, and also taken mercury internally, under the care of a surgeon before he came to me. That medicine had reduced him to a very weak state, and he was both languid and emaciated, without having had any favourable effect on his complaint. Discutient fomentations and cataplasms had also been for a length of time applied to the affected part. I advised a decoction of the grey nicker—The tumour grew softer in the space of a month, and began to decrease in

bulk—He continued the medicine for about two months longer, during which time both the hardness and swelling totally disappeared, and he obtained a perfect cure.

OBSERVATION LXI.

A Gangrene of the Genital Parts of a young Girl, which proved fatal.

A YOUNG Girl about seventeen years of age, on her first essay, contracted a few venereal sores, which were very painful, and the labia was also much swelled.

Being of a full sanguine habit of body, I advised that great caution should be used previous to, as well as after, putting her on any course of active mercurials. By antiphlogistic treatment, both the pain and inflammation would have gradually subsided: but this advice was not followed, for she was immediately put under a course of mercurial frictions, and the sores were every day dressed with the mercurial ointment. The
event

event was, that every symptom rapidly increased; so that in fifteen days after, I found her a most loathsome object; all the labia and the surrounding parts in a frightful gangrene, from which there issued such a stench, as was intolerable. Two days after this she died.

OBSERVATION LXII.

Painful Sensations near the Neck of the Bladder of several Years standing, arising from an ill-managed Gonorrhœa.

A YOUNG Gentleman, in consequence of a gonorrhœa, which had not been judiciously treated, laboured under the most disagreeable sensations for several years afterwards. He suffered so much in the emissions of the semen, that the venereal act became a great pain to him in lieu of a pleasure; he therefore was obliged to avoid the sex on that account. This situation gave him an uncommon degree of concern, being a bar to changing his condition. He had,
for

for a long time, gone from one practitioner to another, without obtaining relief. They in general had given him mercurials, which I readily perceived when he applied to me. I found his prostate gland and the seminal ducts highly diseased. His health was happily re-established by the use of the attracting medicated fount and some sweeteners internally. He afterwards soon married, to his no small satisfaction.

OBSERVATION LXIII.

Purulent Discharge of Matter from the Ears, arising from venereal Cause.

A COUNTRY Gentleman came to town to consult me for an oozing of purulent matter from both his ears, but particularly the left. His cheek and neck were sometimes so incrusted with the discharge, that he was obliged to have recourse to hot water and soap to wash it off. Sea bathing had been tried for a long time; afterwards the
bark

bark and cold bathing, without success. When he applied to me, he had been ill five years. About a year previous to its breaking out he had laboured under a venereal symptom, which, from the treatment he underwent, I had no doubt was the cause of it. I recommended him a course of sweeteners, which, with a few rules in his diet, conquered this loathsome complaint, which would have deprived him of the sense of hearing in a little time longer.

OBSERVATION LXIV.

A constant flowing of Saliva, with great Debility.

A GENTLEMAN brought his Lady to my house for my advice: she was about thirty year of age; about five years ago she had been salivated for a slight venereal complaint, which her husband had communicated; but such was the singularity of her constitution, that the spitting had continued

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more or less ever since; the least exposure to cold air, or a small current of it through her chamber door, shocked her whole frame; on which account she was obliged to be housed almost constantly, both summer and winter. Her chief nourishment was liquids, being unable to eat solid food. She was obliged constantly to keep a handkerchief to her mouth, the saliva flowing copiously at all times.

Whenever she happened to eat a bit of fruit pie, or ripe fruit of any kind, it immediately flew to her bowels, and brought on a violent diarrhœa, in one of which she had nearly lost her life. Her general health was materially injured—her menstrual discharge had long disappeared, and she had every appearance of a consumption. The first thing I attempted in this case was, to administer such remedies best calculated to bring about the monthly discharges, and at the same time to give her strength, which was fortunately accomplished—and her cure was afterwards happily compleated by taking restora-

restoratives and sweeteners, to the great joy of her husband.—She has since bore him three fine children.

OBSERVATION LXV.

Broken Constitution, with Imbecillity.

A GENTLEMAN of a middle age, who had been a very hard liver, had been, for a long time subject to paroxisms of nervous debility, which, for a time, deprived him in a great measure of the use of his faculties. His blood was impoverished, and his constitution broken. He had been frequently wounded under Venus's banner, and there was a good deal of acrimony in his fluids. He was now totally incapable of all venereal intercourse : however, by a course of restoratives and some sweeteners, this gentleman was fortunately restored to his pristine health.

OBSERVATION LXVI.

Venereal Consumption, with a diseased Liver.

A GENTLEMAN, about forty-five years of age, who had resided a long time in India, having contracted a venereal complaint in the torrid zone, which bid defiance to the profession, and being of many years standing, together with the abuse of mercury, he was really reduced to the last degree of bodily weakness, with great dejection of spirits, and a desponding melancholy state of mind. He had, for a long time, taken the decoction of the woods, with the sublimite of mercury—Had taken the bark for a long time, and changed his air to the most healthy places. . He was very fallow, felt an indolent pain in the region of the liver, which was schirrous. By a course of sweeteners, composed of the grey nicker, with its extract, his venereal

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symptoms

symptoms entirely vanished ; but he fell a victim to his diseased liver about two years afterwards.

OBSERVATION LXVII.

Female Weakness, with tetters Eruptions on the Breast and other Parts of the Body.

A LADY of lax fibres and delicate constitution applied to me for advice—Having informed me, that she had been for a long time troubled with tetters eruptions on her breast and various other parts, together with a copious fluor albus, which disturbed her exceedingly ; I recommended her a course of sweeteners, together with some restoratives, which re-established her health in the space of between three and four months.

OBSERVATION LXVIII.

An Irritation of the Bladder, with frequent Inclination to make Water.

A YOUNG Gentleman, who had suffered much from a gonorrhœa, had a gleet upon him every now and then for upwards of three years. He was also attacked, at intervals, with an habitual stranguary of the most acute and tormenting kind. At these periods he was sometimes obliged to go into a hot-bath for temporary relief. His case was truly pitiable, for the instant he drank a glass of wine, or any liquor in the least spirituous (to use his own words) it seemed as if at that moment it flew to his bladder, and forced him to urine, though perhaps only a few drops. He could venture to drink nothing stronger than table beer; but toast and water, with a little capillair, was his common drink. He told me he had been ordered sea-bathing, which
had

had done him a great deal of hurt, for he was now much worse than before. This Gentleman was cured by persevering, for some time, in the use of *antispasmodics* and *sweeteners*, of which the nicker was the principal; by which means his bladder acquired its natural tone, and the acrimony was carried off from his fluids. He was then enabled to take his glass, and enjoy his company, without any inconvenience whatsoever.

OBSERVATION LXIX.

Scorbutic Blotches on the Face, with an Enlargement of the Tonsils.

A GENTLEMAN of a scorbutic habit of body having suffered much from the acrimony of that disease, which chiefly affected his face. — He observed, that about four years ago, he contracted a venereal complaint; for the cure of which he was put under a course of rubbing a small por-
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tion

tion of mercurial ointment into his thighs and legs every night for thirty nights. His mouth became sore, and he spit a considerable quantity, but ever since his other complaint got worse and worse: at times his face was so disfigured as to oblige him to keep his chamber. I had now every reason to believe, that there was a good deal of venereal acrimony mixed with it. His tonsils had been preternaturally enlarged for upwards of two years, and upon taking the least cold they became inflamed and painful. These symptoms, however, were temporarily relieved with the usual remedies by his apothecary. I ordered him a strong decoction of the grey nicker, as a sweetener, with its extract, which he continued regularly for between three and four months. By this time his tonsils were reduced to their natural size, and his face freed from the blotches; his general health was much mended, and his tonsils were never affected afterwards.

OBSERVATION LXX.

The Fallibility of Mercurial Frictions, in some Constitutions, to cure the Lues.

A GENTLEMAN and his wife, who had been both under a course of mercury for a long time, and their physician having every reason to believe they were perfectly cured, assured them accordingly, and they were both made easy in their minds. They continued so for near a year, when the disease, not thoroughly eradicated, brought on fresh symptoms; such as painful sensations in the nose and shin-bones, shooting pains in the glands of the groins, with warts on the genital parts, and sundry more symptoms. On applying again to the Doctor, he would not believe it, assuring them, that from the quantity of mercury administered, it was impossible these sensations could be venereal. But in a little time after, they and he too were sufficiently convinced to

the contrary. The patients were put into other methods of cure, and were both soon re-established in their health, without confinement or restraint of diet; otherwise this couple, to my certain knowledge, would have been miserable and beyond redress in a very little time.

OBSERVATION LXXI.

A Venereal callous Ulcer in the Groin.

A GENTLEMAN of a middle age was recommended to consult me, by Mr. Inman, jun. a very ingenious surgeon of St. Osyth, near Colchester. About two years before a venereal abscess (commonly called a bubo) in his left groin had been opened by a caustic; he afterwards underwent a long course of mercury, but the sore proved obstinate, and would not heal up. There had been several gentlemen of the profession consulted, and they all agreed to throw in more mercury. In the space of three months he had rubbed in near twelve ounces

unces of mercurial ointment; his lungs became very weak, and they were timid to go on further with this metal; but the ulcer in his groin remained still in the same state. After a month's rest, they began the old course for two months more; but the venereal sore bid defiance to them all. He then was advised to try sea-bathing, which he did for two months—I was surprised, when he told me he got worse there. On examination, I found the glands of both his groins had a schirrous feel, and he was of a scrophulous habit.

In such constitutions I have, from experience, found that mercury never does any good, but a great deal of hurt. He soon began to take the Montpelier Apozem, which, in the space of two months, healed up the ulcer in his groin; and by continuing it and the extract of grey nicker some time longer, together with a few restoratives, his health was fortunately re-established, and saved from being the victim of a consumption.

OBSERVATION LXXII.

An Atrophy, accompanied with a Suppression of the Menfes, profuse Fluor Albus, and a Debility of the whole Frame.

I WAS called to visit a married lady, who, in consequence of a scrophulous complaint of long standing, had, for many years, laboured under a great debility of her whole frame. Her menfes had been suppressed for two years, her age was but twenty-eight, and she was afflicted with a copious fluor albus; her habit was irritable, and her nervous system much impaired. Country air, exercise, sea-bathing, and every kind of chalybeate medicines and waters, had long been tried without the wished-for effect.

I began to treat her case, first by exhibiting sweeteners to eradicate the acrimony out of her blood, which had so long been
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the source of her other complaints: restoratives were then plentifully thrown in to give her strength, and by the use of a few deobstruent remedies the monthly evacuations became regular; she daily acquired health, strength, and spirits, and in about two months returned to her home in the country, happily saved from a fatal consumption.

OBSERVATION LXXIII.

Swelling in the Glands of the Neck, something resembling those of the King's Evil.

A COUNTRY Gentleman brought his daughter, a young lady about fourteen years of age, to consult me in a case of glandular swelling of her neck, which had afflicted her five years. I found the glands on each side affected; one or two of them sometimes run matter; they had both the feel and appearance of being schirrous; a stiffness in the motions of her neck, with a fullness of the glands, disfigured her very

Q 4

much.

much. Mercurial preparations, decoctions of the woods, and repeated trials at the salt water had failed. I recommended the grey nicker, which was exhibited under my own direction with the happiest success.

OBSERVATION LXXIV.

An acrimonious Discharge from the Glans.

A MIDDLE-AGED Gentleman had been teased for a long time with a discharge of foul matter from the glans and behind it — sometimes so sharp as to excoriate the parts — applied to me for advice ; it was very troublesome, he observed, always after coition. He had taken mercurials for it, he told me, some years ago, which made him worse. I did not believe it to be venereal, but a sharp acrimony in his fluids. When that cause was done away by a course of sweeteners, he got perfectly well.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION LXXV.

An Ulcer on the Inside of the Nostrils, commonly called an Ozena.

A GENTLEMAN, after having been supposed to be cured of a venereal complaint, which was an ulcer in his right tonsil, continued free from every symptom of that malady for two years. About this time he began to complain of an itching sensation on the inside of his right nostril, and soon after felt the same sensation in the left. As it gave him no concern, he let it go on for three or four months, introducing now and then a little acid on a feather up the nostrils to ease the itching. But at length it began to be painful, and foetid matter was observed to come down with the common mucus from those parts. He was now alarmed, and living a great distance in the country, set off to town for my advice. I had every reason to be of opinion

I

that

that his case was venereal, and immediately put him under a course of sweeteners, by the use of which he was radically cured. It was lucky for this Gentleman that he got alarmed in time, otherwise the bones of his nose must inevitably have suffered.

OBSERVATION LXXVI.

A Consumption of the Lungs, subsequent to a Course of mercurial Frictions.

I WAS sent for to Lincoln to visit a young Gentleman, who, in consequence of a very slight salivation he underwent, for the cure of a venereal abscess in his groin, fell into a rapid decay. When I saw him he had been ill twelve months, and matters were too far gone to render that service so ardently wished. Nothing could be done here, but to put off the evil day a little longer. He took remedies for the space of three months, when he made his exit. And here I cannot help remarking, that a
father

father was deprived of an only darling son and heir, by the obstinacy of a *dogmatic practitioner*,

OBSERVATION LXXVII.

Loss of the Uvula by a Venereal Ulcer.

A GENTLEMAN, who had unfortunately employed an ignorant country surgeon to attend him for a sore throat, which was supposed to arise from a cold, plied him with gargles, draughts, and blisters, for upwards of seven weeks, but it proved all in vain.

A physician in the neighbourhood was called, who advised a perpetual blister, which he ordered to be kept running three weeks longer. The patient at length got wearied out, and came to consult me. I found his uvula half eat away with a venereal ulcer, and the remainder so far gone, that it was impossible to save it. He was put immediately under a course of the
Montpelier

Montpelier Apozem, which healed the ulcer in the space of five weeks, and in a great measure restored him to his general health; but the uvula was entirely destroyed by the poison: the loss of which made such a change in the tone of his voice, that he gave himself up to despair, became melancholy, and in a great measure retired from society.

OBSERVATION LXXVIII.

A venereal Ulcer on the Gums of the upper Jaw.

A YOUNG Gentleman belonging to a regiment stationed in Jamaica, on his return home on leave of absence, applied to me for advice. He shewed me an ulcer on the gums of his upper jaw, exactly above his fore-teeth. I perceived it was venereal, and put him immediately under proper remedies. I never saw an ulcer spread so rapidly in so short a time: had it not been
over-

overtaken, it would soon have destroyed the gums, and laid the sockets of the teeth all bare. He declared to me, he had not gone in the way to get infected since his arrival. There was, he observed, a brother officer during the passage, who was under cure for a venereal sore throat, and he sometimes made use of the same tooth-brush to clean his teeth; it was more than probable he had been infected that way.

OBSERVATION LXXIX.

Venereal Pains, resembling the Gout and Rheumatism.

A GENTLEMAN about forty-five, had, for the last four years, every now and then, severe fits of pains in his bones, especially those of his legs and arms. The skin sometimes put on a red appearance, and his feet became puffy: He took to wear flannel, but his attacks continued as frequent, accompanied with excruciating pain as before. That it arose from some impurities in his blood,

blood, there was no doubt, and I was of opinion, from the grounds I had to go upon, that they proceeded from a venereal cause. He was radically cured by the usual remedies.

OBSERVATION LXXX.

*An Ulcer in the Lungs, accompanied with
spitting of Pus.*

A YOUNG Gentleman, whilst under a course of mercurial frictions, with the approbation of his physician, used to take fresh air and exercise; but in doing this he unfortunately caught a cold, which in the end proved fatal.

He was cured of his venereal complaints, but it was dearly bought; for in about six months after he became hectic, and his friends desired my attendance. He had every appearance of an atrophy, and the phlegm that he spit up seemed to have pus mixed with it. I found little could be done here,
but

but to put off the evil day a little longer. I was of opinion, together with Mr. Bromfield, who was also called in, that the air of Portugal would be the fittest for him, there being nothing to be done by medicine. He went shortly after to Lisbon, and died in four months.

O B S E R V A T I O N LXXXI.

A Venereal Ulcer on the Palate, from a repulsed Gonorrhœa.

A GENTLEMAN and his Lady came a considerable way from the country, for my advice: they were in the most unhappy state of mind, especially the former. He had been under the care of a physician in his own neighbourhood for the cure of a gonorrhœa, which was supposed to be completed in three or four weeks. But the practitioner unfortunately was mistaken, and was the means of his giving the malady to his wife, imagining his patient to be cured. This was a very serious error in judgment.

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There was at this time an ulcer in the palate spreading rapidly ; and his Lady was labouring under very painful symptoms. They were both cured in the usual way.

OBSERVATION LXXXII.

A callous Ulcer on the Right Hip.

AN elderly Gentleman, after having tried repeated courses of mercurials, both outwardly and inwardly, besides several seasons at the salt water, consulted me for a hard callous ulcer in his right hip, which had afflicted him every now and then for several years. He attributed it to not having been radically cured of a venereal malady ; but in this he was mistaken, for it appeared to me to be a complete scrophulous ulcer. It sometimes, he said, would dry up for a month or two, afterwards a slight inflammation came on, and then broke out as before. It had a very callous edge, and large portions of fungus flesh. He obtained a radical cure by the use of the grey nicker prepared in its usual form.

OBSERVATION LXXXIII.

A spreading Ulcer on the Tongue.

A GENTLEMAN caught a fore throat, attended with common symptoms. His uvula was much inflamed and ulcerated; but his apothecary, with common gargles and the common treatment in such cases, got him seemingly well in a few days. About two months afterwards a little pimple appeared under his tongue, which he shewed to his apothecary who had cured him of his fore throat; and as it appeared to be of no consequence, nothing was done for it, except a weak solution of allum to keep it clean. When he came to me it had spread nearly the breadth of a shilling; and if it had not been overtaken and checked, it would, in a little time longer, have deprived him of the organ of speech. I had every reason to believe it to be venereal.

OBSERVATION LXXXIV.

An obstinate Ulcer in the Groin, after a Venereal Abscess.

A SURGEON of the Royal Navy shewed me an ulcer on his right groin of three years standing; it was the remains of a venereal bubo, which had been opened by a caustic, and would not heal up, notwithstanding long courses of mercury, both inwardly and outwardly, at intervals for a long time.

He drank the decoction of grey nicker for some months, from which he received much benefit, but it failed to complete his cure.

About six months after he got appointed to a frigate going to the West India station, where he took the same medicine, and obtained a perfect cure. I am well convinced, from experience, that the climate in this case was the grand agent.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION LXXXV.

*A confirmed Deafness, after a Course of
Mercurial Frictions.*

A GENTLEMAN about thirty-seven years of age having undergone a course of frictions with the mercurial ointment, prepared with equal parts of hogs lard and quicksilver ; it was principally rubbed into his thighs and legs for the space of two months. His complaints were chancres and an abscess in his groin : these were removed by the mercury ; and the gentleman under whose care he was had every reason to believe him cured. In about two months after he was seized with a ringing noise in his ears ; it affected him both night and day, but particularly when in bed ; it was so acute as to deprive him of refreshing sleep. He made application again to the profession, some of whom were of opinion that the virus was not done away ; accord-

ingly he began again to rub in more mercury for six weeks longer, at the end of which he found himself worse in every respect, much reduced, and the noise in his ears much more troublesome. Not long after this he became perfectly deaf all of a sudden, and was obliged to converse with his friends by his pen and the finger alphabet. About this time I was consulted, but from appearances I was afraid it was a lost case; every thing was tried that usually proved successful, but they unfortunately failed. I advised him to go to a warmer climate, which advice he has followed, but he has not as yet experienced much alteration for the better *.

OBSER-

* I am well convinced that the blood-vessels are very much weakened by mercurial friction; and I have known many more cases, besides the above, where those of the brain suffered in consequence. These misfortunes were occasioned by the coats of the blood-vessels, as well as the nerves, being enervated by the violence of the mercury. Quicksilver, ever so well divided in the mercurial ointment, may, in passing through the blood-vessels, run together and circulate with the
mass

OBSERVATION LXXXVI.

Venereal Imbecillity, arising from a diseased prostate Gland.

A MIDDLE-AGED Gentleman having, in the early part of his life, improperly taken a good deal of mercury for the cure of repeated gonorrhœas, his * prostate gland a few years afterwards became very much relaxed and acquired a local disease, by which his powers became in a great measure destroyed, and when he changed his condition he was incapable of performing the duties of the marriage bed. Sometimes, he ob-

mas of blood in its native form, and be afterwards deposited on divers parts of the body. Hence we may justly fear, that this metallic fluid, which is so much heavier than the blood, may not unfrequently fall upon some of the vital parts of the animal œconomy.

* This gland will sometimes become diseased without any venereal cause whatsoever, and bring on the same evils. It is only to be cured by a proper application to the part affected.

served, he felt a kind of dull sensation, but not sufficient to create alarm, as he supposed; and never suspecting the cause of his impotency, he followed the advice of his physician, both in regard to the non-naturals, and also in having taken for a long time all those medicines of any fame in the *Materia Medica* for those complaints, but without the wished for effect. When I examined the gland, it was charged highly with acrimonious matter: he observed, that he had often taken notice of particles of matter in his urine. In the space of a fortnight there was upwards of two tea spoonfuls of this matter drawn off from the diseased gland; by the medicated sound applied about the space of twenty minutes every day, and by continuing it regularly for about three months, the discharge, from being sharp and virulent, became white, mild, and thick, like a curd, scarcely adhering to the sound. The prostate, after this, soon assumed its pristine state, the seminal vessels recovered their natural tone, and his powers were perfectly restored.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION LXXXVII.

Fistula in Perinæo, with an Obstruction of the Passage.

A GENTLEMAN about forty-five, having caught a gonorrhœa, during the time of his cure, an abscess formed in perinæo, within about two inches of the anus. The gentleman whose care he was under treated it in the usual way. In a little time, however, his urine made a passage through it. This was his condition when he employed me. There were two small holes with callous edges, through both of which his urine dribbled when he made water. What was remarkable in this gentleman's case, he told me that a few years back, while under cure for the same complaint, he had a large swelling on the same part of the urethra, but it did not come to suppuration, and was of no consequence. His general health had suf-

ferred exceedingly by this business, having laboured under many concomitant symptoms.

In the space of three months, by the use of sweeteners and the medicated fount, together with a few rules in regard to the non-naturals, his obstruction was removed, and the fistula firmly healed, so that not the least oozing ever passed afterwards. However, he continued weak and feeble for some time; but when I could venture to recommend him riding, he was soon re-established, and shortly after could ride the fleetest hunter after a pack of hounds.

S U P P L E M E N T,

W I T H

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

THERE are many instances of distempers of our bodies being highly serviceable to the discharge of malignant humours *, and preventing greater evils. No less kind than admirable is the contrivance of man's body, that even its diseases should many times be its cure; that when the enemy lies lurking within to destroy us, there should be such a reluctancy, and all nature excited to expel him thence.

* For the blood in a fever, if well governed, like wine upon the fret, dischargeth itself of all heterogeneous mixtures, whereby that which threatens death tends often, in the conclusion, to the prolonging of life.

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To which purpose even pain itself is of great and excellent use, not only in giving us notice of the presence of the enemy, but by exciting us to use our utmost diligence and skill, to root out so troublesome and destructive a companion.

What can possibly be better contrived for animal motion and life than the quick circulation of the blood and the fluids, which run out of sight in the capillary vessels and very minute ducts without impediment, (except in some diseases) being all directed to their peculiar glands and channels, for the different secretions, sensible and insensible, whereof the last is far the greatest in quantity and effects, as to health and sickness, acute distempers frequently arising from a diminution of transpiration through the cutaneous chimnies, and from chronical ones from an augmentation; whereas obstructions in the liver, pancreas, and other glands, may only cause a schirrous, a jaundice, an ague, a dropfy, or other slow diseases; so an increase of their secretions may accompany
the

the general colliquations, as in fluxes, hectic sweats and coughs, diabetes, and other consumptions. It is astonishing the wise contrivance there is to preserve these secretions from the blood (on which life so much depends) by frequent attritions and comminutions of the fluids in their passage through the heart, the lungs, and the whole system of the muscles! What meanders and contortions of vessels of the organs of separation! and what a concourse of elastic bodies from the air, to supply the springs and continual motions of some parts, not only in sleep and rest, but in long violent exercises of the muscles, whose force drives the fluid round in a wonderful rapid circulation through the minutest tubes, assisted by the constant pabulum of the atmosphere and their own elastic fibres, which impress that velocity on the fluids.

The human body is admirably contrived, and made to prevent evils; so no less is our art and remedies used to get rid of them when they do happen. When by any misfortune

fortune diseases do befall, or when by our own neglect we pull down maladies upon ourselves, what emunctories*, what admirable passages are dispersed throughout the body, what incomparable methods doth nature sometimes take, what vigorous effects is she enabled to make by the assistance of a well-adapted remedy to discharge the peccant humours, to correct the morbid matter, and, in a word, to set all things right again !

Remarks founded upon experience are the surest and safest pilots to truth in every profession, and which, when applied to the cure of maladies incident to the human body, are certainly more likely to succeed

* One of Nature's most constant methods here is, by the glands and the secretions made by them : here are grounds to admire the contrivance of our blood, which, on some occasions, so soon as any thing destructive to the constitution of it comes into it, immediately, by an intestine commotion, endeavoureth to thrust it forth, and is not only freed from the new guest, but often what likewise may have lain lurking therein for a great while.

than

than pompous and plausible theories, however refined.

As the practice of medicine originally commenced without theory, it is the opinion of some of the most learned of the science, that it might subsist as well without it. Who had any share in giving hints, or directing the wild Indian * to a remedy for his disease? He cures himself by the wild vegetables of the field; and as relief is the only thing he regards or cares for, he never enquires into the cause. Hence practice, built upon simple knowledge, supplies the place of speculation, and teaches the unlettered tribe to place a value on their discoveries, according to the relief it procures them. The rude and uncultivated Africans,

* These sagacious people were the discoverers of the powerful antidote against the bite of that serpent, called the Rattlesnake, which before proved always mortal; but if this remedy is at hand, its baneful effects are instantly destroyed.—It is the juice of the plantain and horehound, equal parts taken inwardly, and a poultice of the bruised leaves applied to the wound.

who

who are subject to the most terrible species of the lues, known by the name of yaws, a malady very frequent among the black nations, and whose sagacity in their mode of cure is not equalled by any other people on earth ; for, as if directed by instinct, when covered over with running sores, they fly to the vegetable kingdom for relief ; and by drinking an infusion prepared from a species of the plant commonly called the grey nicker, a native of the Western world, they radically and speedily cure themselves of this loathsome distemper. Mercury, it is well known, often fails in various kinds of venereal complaints and other acrimonious taints of the human fluids, besides does much mischief.

Since ever I have acquired experience in the knowledge of my profession, I have laid it down for a general rule, that no medicine should be received for its singular use, till it has had many trials in proper circumstances, i. e. till it has been used on a number of people equally ill, or that it has had
happy

happy effects in venereal and other maladies, when no reasonable hopes were left of a cure by the best of other medicines skilfully administered.

To speak of new remedies, that either are so, by new uses, or new materials, it is very certain there cannot a greater difference appear in the use of the same colours by different limners, than there is in the success of many medicines by practitioners of different judgments.

To conclude, I will only recommend what I have found, on the most attentive observation during a series of years practice, the most effectual method of eradicating every species of these maladies, under the most inveterate circumstances. This remedy is the Montpelier Apozem already mentioned, and first offered to the world in the former Editions of this Work. The superior degree of penetrability, if I may so express myself, which this medicine possesses in regard to the grand point of eradicating the virus and sweetening the human fluids,

fluids, without relaxing the solids; and its action being chiefly determined to the different outlets of the body, washing away the acrimonious humours, by insensible perspiration, urine, and stool, is the reason why it is found so powerful a resource in all venereal complaints after mercury has failed. Besides, in cases where this poison is combined with a scrophulous habit of body, mercury is always precarious, and its exhibition extremely dangerous. In such complicated cases this preparation effectually cures both.

Explanation

*Explanation of the Terms made Use of
in the preceding Work.*

A.

ABCESS, a tumour or swelling in any part of the body, which may be either discussed or brought to suppuration.

ABORTION, is when a woman goes not her full time out with child.

ACIDS, All liquors and substances are so called, which are composed of particles that affect the taste with points, sharp, and piercing.

ACRIMONY, expresseth a quality in bodies by which they corrode, destroy, or dissolve others.

ACUTE SENSATION, is when it is attended with an increased velocity of blood.

ADNATA TUNICA, is the common membrane of the eye.

ALIMENT, it signifies the converting the food or substance taken in at the mouth into chyle, in order to repair the continual decay of the body, caused by perspiration or otherwise.

ANATOMY, is that dissection of dead bodies as is necessary to lay open all the parts to view, in order to acquire a true knowledge of their wonderful structure.

ANUS, the fundament.

ANTISPASMODIC, a remedy against spasms and convulsions; the former not unfrequently attacks the neck of the bladder and the urethra, arising from various causes.

ARTERY, is a conical channel, conveying the blood from the heart to all parts of the body; it is composed of three coats, the first nervous, being a thread of fine blood-vessels for nourishing the other two; the second muscular, consisting of spiral fibres, which have a strong elasticity, and have many or few strata, according to the size of the artery; the third or inmost coat is a fine transparent membrane, which keeps the blood within its channels.

ASTRINGENTS, are those medicines which are binding, and they are either such as act by the asperity of their particles, whereby they corrugate the membranes, and make them draw up closer, or such as thicken the fluids, whereby they cannot run off so fast as before.

ATROPHY,

ATROPHY, is when the body insensibly wastes, as in a consumption.

B.

BILIOUS, from bile, which is a thick yellow bitter liquor, separated in the liver, collected in the gall bladder, and discharged into the lower end of the duodenum, or beginning of the jejunum, by the common duct.

BUBO, is that part of the groin, from the bending of the thigh to the scrotum, and therefore all tumours in that part are called buboes.

C.

CHYLE, is that juice which the food is immediately converted into by digestion, and afterwards conveyed into the blood.

CALLOUS and **CALLOSITY**, signifies a kind of swelling without pain, like that of the skin with hard labour; and therefore, when wounds and the edges of ulcers grow so, they are said to be callous.

CATAPLASM, is a topical form, known most by the name of poultice.

CAUSTICKS, are such things as, by their violent activity and heat thence occasioned, destroy the texture of the part to which they are applied, and eat it away.

CICATRIX, is the scar or mark left upon healing a wound or ulcer.

CIRCULATION of the **BLOOD**, is the continual motion of the blood from the heart through the arteries, and returning back to the heart through the veins.

CONTAGION, is the communicating or transferring a disease from one body to another, by certain steams or effluvia transmitted from the body of a sick person. Some diseases are thus, by an immediate contact or touch, as the madness of a dog by biting, and the venom of the pox by coition. Some contagions are transmitted through the air to a great distance, as the plague and other pestilential maladies, in which case the air is even said to be contagious, that is, full of contagious particles.

CONVEX, is the external round part of any body opposite to the hollow, and in our professional way it is sometimes called Protuberance.

CONCOMITANT, accompanying; a companion.

CUTANEOUS DISORDERS, are those which more immediately affect the skin, which venereal complaints often do.

D.

DEBILITY, is a relaxation of the solids that brings on weakness and languor, not unfrequently produced by mercury.

DIARRHÆA, is a flux of the belly.

DISEASE, is an irregular circulation of animal fluids.

DISCUSS, to apply such medicines to a tumour which cure or disperse the morbid matter without suppuration or bringing it to a head.

DISCRASY, is an ill habit of body.

E.

EMBRYO, is the rudiments of a child in the womb before perfect formation, thus called from its growth, resembling that of the first shoots of a plant, and having no other than a vegetative life.

EXCORIATION, is a tearing of the skin.

EXCRESCENCE, is a preternatural growth of any thing beyond its proper dimensions, as wens, warts, and the like.

EXCRETORY DUCTS, small ducts or vessels, making part of the composition or structure of the glands.

EXOSTOSIS, is any protuberance of a bone that is not natural, which often happens in venereal cases.

F.

FIBRES, a similar part of an animal body sometimes called a filament, and when very small, capillament; it is a slender thread, which being variously interwoven, or wound up, forms the various solid parts of an animal body: also the long fine parts or threads that any natural body is composed of.

FLUID, ready or easily flowing, like water; from whence all bodies that naturally have, or artificially are, brought to such a consistence and property, are called fluid bodies, as wine, oil, metals in flux, &c.

FISTULA, is any kind of pipe, and therefore some anatomists call many parts that have any resemblance thereto by the figure fistulæ, as a fistula in the urinary passage, a fistula in ano, &c. &c.

FLUOR ALBUS, is a distemper common to the female sex, called by them the whites.

FOETUS, the child in the womb is thus called after it is perfectly formed; before that period it is called embryo.

FUNC-

FUNCTION, is the office of any particular part, to which it is by nature fitted.

FUNGUS, is strictly a mushroom, and used to express such excrescences of flesh as grow out upon the lips of wounds.

G.

GANGRENE, or **MORTIFICATION**, is when, in any part, the natural juices quite lose their proper motions, so that they fall into a fermentative one, and corrupt and destroy the texture of the part.

GARGARISM, is a liquid form of medicine to wash the mouth with.

GENITALS, the generative parts of any male creature.

GLAND, all the glands of a human body are by anatomists reduced to two sorts, viz. Conglobate and Conglomerate. A conglomate gland is a little smooth body, wrapped up in a fine skin, by which it is separated from all the other parts, only admitting an artery and nerve to pass in, and giving way to a vein and excretory canal to come out. Of this sort are the glands in the brain, the labial glands and testes. A conglomerate gland is composed of many little conglobate glands, all tied together, and wrapped up in one

common tunicle or membrane. Sometimes all their excretory ducts unite, and make one common pipe, through which the liquor of all of them runs, as the pancreas do. Sometimes the ducts uniting form several pipes, which only communicate with one another by cross canals; and such are the female breasts. Others again have several pipes, without any communication with one another; of which sort are the lachrimal glands, which emit the tears in weeping, and the prostate near the neck of the bladder. The last sort is when each little gland has its own excretory duct, through which it transmits its liquor to a common basin, as the kidneys.

GLANS, is the top of the penis, or that part covered with the prepuce or foreskin.

GLEET, a flux or running of matter from the urethra, differing in colour and consistence, but in general of a yellow or brown tinge—sometimes caused by strains and other infirmities, but most commonly flows from venereal causes, and frequently remains after bad cures.

GONORRHOEA, an involuntary discharge of purulent matter from the urinary passage.

HERNIA,

H.

HERNIA, is any kind of rupture whatsoever, and is diversified by the name of the part affected, as Hernia Humoralis, is when the testicles are distended beyond their natural size.

HYDROPHOBIA, is a fear of water ; a symptom of the canine madness.

HYSTERICK, is a disorder of the womb, harassing the softer sex, and brings the whole nervous system frequently into disorders.

I.

IMBECILLITY, is a state of languor or decay, wherein the body is not able to perform its usual exercises or functions.

IMPREGNATION, is the emission of the male in coition, by which the female conceives, and becomes with young. It is also hence figuratively used in pharmacy ; as any menstruum is said to be impregnated with any body that is dissolved in it.

INFECTION, is that manner of communicating a disease by some effluvia or particles which fly off from distempered bodies, and mixing with the juices of others,
occasion

occasion the same disorders as in the bodies they came from.

INFLAMMATION, is when the blood is obstructed, so as to crowd in a greater quantity into any particular part, and give it a greater heat, redness, tension, &c. than usual.

INTESTINES, these make a long and large winding-pipe, with various circumvolutions and turnings, reaching from the lower end of the stomach to the fundament.

L.

LABIA, strictly signify the lips, but are used figuratively to express many parts of a human body, which, by their figure, have any thereto. It is in general used for the external parts of a woman's privities.

LACTEAL VESSELS, these are long slender pipes, whose coats are so thin as to become invisible; when they are not distended with chyle, they are innumerable about the small intestines. It is by the imbibing power of these wonderful little pipes that a constant supply of milky nourishment is carried into the mass of blood, and life supported.

LAS-

LASSITUDE, this generally expresses that weariness which proceeds from a distempered state, and not from exercise, because that wants no remedy but rest; too great a consumption of the fluids, which are necessary to maintain the force and spring of the solids, or acrimonious matter in the blood, or a vitiated secretion of that juice whereby the fibres are not supplied either in due quantity or quality. These are the principal causes of that lifeless condition.

LUES, signifies a plague or contagion; but according to modern use, especially when joined with venerea, means only a confirmed venereal complaint.

M.

MALIGNANT, signifies such a disease as is greatly aggravated, and is generally applied to those that are epidemical or infectious.

MELANCHOLY, this disorder arises from too heavy and too viscid a blood, which permits not a sufficiency of spirits to be separated in the brain, to animate and invigorate the nerves and muscles.

MENSES, these are the monthly evacuations of women from the womb, and is
as

as nice an affair, rightly to understand, as any thing that concerns the human mechanism; a complete account of which I have given in the fifth edition of this Work, Vid. page 92. This evacuation begins usually in healthy persons, about the age of fourteen or fifteen years, and ceases naturally in women with child; and in those so far advanced in years as to be passed child-bearing, of which it is an infallible sign, and generally ceases in those that give suck.

MERCURIALS, medicines made up, prepared with, or compounded of, mercury or quicksilver.

MINERALS, are hard bodies dug out of the earth or mine (whence the name) being in part of a metalline, and in part of a stony substance.

MUCUS, is mostly used for any slimy liquor or moisture, lubricating various parts of the body.

N.

NERVE, a fibrous, round, long, white, porous substance, which conveys the animal spirits to make the parts of the body moveable and sensible; these are called by different names, according to the situation or places where they grow, and the office

office they perform. Vid. my Dissertations on the Diseases of the Nerves.

O.

OECONOMY, is strictly the management of family concerns; but in a figurative sense is frequently enlarged: amongst other things to the mechanism and functions of a human body; so that animal œconomy includes all that concerns the human structure in a state of health.

OZENA, is an ulcer in the inside of the nostrils.

P.

PALATE, is that arch and cavity of the mouth, covered with a pretty thick membrane, which is continued to the tonsils; upon it there is a great number of little glands, whose excretory ducts, piercing like a sieve, discharge a liquor for the moistening and dissolving the aliments.

PERINÆUM, the space between the anus and parts of generation, divided into two equal lateral parts by a very distinct line—it is much longer in males than in females.

PURULENT DISCHARGE, pus, matter, or corruption.

REGIMEN

R.

REGIMEN GOVERNMENT, is used for that care in diet and living, sometimes necessary to be observed, under a course of particular medicines.

RHEUMATISM, is a distemper affecting chiefly the common membrane of the muscles, which it makes rigid and unfit for motion, sometimes with great pain; and this seems to be brought about much by the same causes, as the mucilaginous glands in the joints are rendered stiff and gritty in the gout.

S.

SCHIRRUS, is a disease of the glands, which become indurated from acrimonious matter, or obstructions in the gland itself. This happens not unfrequently to the liver, to the testicles, to the prostate near the neck of the bladder, and the female breasts.

SOLIDS, firmness, hardness, compactness, density, in our professional way, means the parts containing the fluids of a human body.

SECRETION, is that separation of juices from one another which is performed by the glands.

SEN-

SENSATION, all sensation is performed by the immediate action of the finer and more fluid parts of bodies upon the organs of sense. The impulse communicated by these subtle parts of bodies upon the organs, fitly disposed, is through them transmitted to the nerves appropriated and contrived for such a sense, and through them to the brain. See my *Dissertations on the Nerves*.

SCROTUM, the skin of the testicles, which is composed of many fleshy or muscular fibres, by which means the scrotum is contracted.

SCROPHULA, similar to the king's evil, is a preternatural obstruction, and erosion of the glands.

SEMEN, seed.

STRANGUARY, is any difficulty of urine, from whatsoever cause.

STAGNATE, to want freedom of motion, like the blood when coagulated.

SYMPTOM, is such a conjunction of appearances, or such an appearance of any one thing, as indicates what will be the issue of a disease, and the means of cure.

TONE,

T.

TONE, the order or disposition, that a person's whole frame of body, or any part thereof is in, with regard to health.

TONSILS, are two round glands, placed on the sides of the basis of the tongue, under the common membrane of the fauces, with which they are covered.

TOPICKS, are such things as are externally applied to any particular part.

TUMOUR, a swelling, expresses every thing that can be so called, which is diversified and distinguished into subordinate species, by the particular circumstances or accidents attending them.

U.

URETHRA, is a pipe along the under side of the penis, which is about twelve or thirteen inches long, beginning at the neck of the bladder, from which it receives the urine; and bending to the lower part of the os pubis, it turns up to the roots of the cavernose body, and is continued to the end of the yard.

UVULA, it hangs betwixt the two glands, Amygdale or Tonsils; its substance is
very

very lax, and it has a number of such glands as the palate; it is somewhat long; it hangs from the root of the mouth, at the extremity of the passage, between the tonsils.

W.

WHITES, the fluor Albus.

F I N I S:



